

## 2 hours less school today; Navon in bid to stop shutdown

By LEA LEVAVI  
and D'VORA BEN SHAUL  
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Classes in all the country's schools are to begin two hours later than normal today - this morning, at 10 a.m. - as part of the teachers' continuing protest against the government's refusal to include them in the wage agreement with government employees.

This was decided yesterday by the leaders of the Histadrut Teachers Union and the Secondary Schools Teachers Association.

The union leaders also decided that today's protest will include supervisors, local authority education directors and community centre directors, as well as classroom teachers.

If the teachers' demands are not met, they plan to strike the school system completely tomorrow. The strike may continue beyond one day if it does not yield immediate results.

The country's schools opened at 9 a.m. yesterday, an hour later than normal. The *Jerusalem Post* checked several schools and found that many teachers arrived at 8 a.m. but did not begin teaching until an hour later.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, Education Minister Yitzhak Navon

and representatives of the teachers unions are to meet at 11 a.m. to continue negotiations on the teachers demand that they be allowed to sign the framework agreement between the government and government employees. Signing the agreement would entitle the teachers to an 8 per cent pay rise.

The teachers are also demanding that they receive pay increments awarded them in arbitration last July. The increments, compensation for wage erosion in 1983, was to be paid with November and December salaries. But the Treasury says granting the compensation would violate the current wage-price freeze.

Navon said yesterday that despite budget cuts, there is no reason to deny teachers the right to sign the framework agreement.

"The teachers are justified in their demands and there is no further reason for delaying the matter," Navon said. The education minister did not, however, comment on the increments granted in July's arbitration.

Navon added that the negotiations between the government and the teachers are still in progress, and asked the teachers to delay further strikes until the negotiations are completed.

## Premier to France for talks with Mitterrand

PARIS (Reuters). - Prime Minister Shimon Peres is expected to express support for a greater West European role in Middle East peace efforts during his official three-day visit to Paris, which begins today (See article back page).

At the same time, he is likely to reaffirm Israel's opposition to a proposed international peace conference and stress its preference for direct negotiations with its Arab neighbours, diplomatic sources said.

The visit, the first to France by an Israeli prime minister at an official level in 20 years, marks the latest stage of a personal initiative by President Francois Mitterrand to help break the deadlock in the peace process.

It also coincides with gathering momentum in the Middle East for a new approach to a settlement, notably through a rapprochement of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Israeli officials said Peres would show a new openness to a role by the European Community. Since taking office last July, the Labour Party chief has tried to move away from the attitude of the previous right-wing administration that European involvement was pro-Arab and detrimental to Israel's interests, they said.

He recently told a parliamentary committee that Israel should adopt a positive line towards the 10-nation bloc and urge it to play a "constructive role" in the Middle East.

Mitterrand will be briefing Peres on his visits in the past few months to Jordan, Egypt and Syria where he was urged to back proposals for a wide-based peace conference under UN auspices.

Israel and the U.S. have rejected the idea, which would involve negotiating with the PLO and the Soviet Union. Mitterrand feels such a gathering would be worthwhile only if the participants had reached advance agreement on key issues.

Peres will start his visit this afternoon at a working session with the French Premier Laurent Fabius. Tonight he will be Fabius' guest at a dinner to be attended by prominent figures from various walks of French life.

Tomorrow morning, Peres will have his first (of two) meetings with Mitterrand.

## Rabin to London, Arens to hold fort

Post Defence Correspondent

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to leave tomorrow on a two-day visit to London. On Rabin's insistence, his predecessor, Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens will fill in for him.

Another minister without Portfolio, Ezer Weizman, a member of the Alignment, is understood to have been extremely upset by Rabin's decision.

Sources in the Defence Ministry explained to *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Rabin felt that since Arens was his immediate predecessor, he would be able to carry on at this time better than anyone else in the cabinet. Weizman was defence minister in the Begin government until he resigned in May 1980.

Rabin is going to London to address a Keren Hayesod fundraising dinner, but while there he will also meet with the British Secretary of Defence Michael Heseltine and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe for talks which have been described as "courtesy meetings."

Rabin has nothing on his agenda. *The Post* was told, and will not be asking for British arms or for any research and development programmes to be undertaken by the two countries.

Rabin is also scheduled to lecture at the Institute for Strategic Studies and hold meetings with the press.



Yitzhak Peretz in the Knesset shortly before last night's cabinet meeting. (Eliahu Harari)

## Peres backs Moda'i on cutting subsidies

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday endorsed Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i's demand for a rise in the prices of basic commodities this month, well before the end of the three-month price freeze.

The premier's endorsement came at a meeting of coalition MKs where Peres said that leaving the prices of subsidized goods as they are is costing the public purse \$70 million per month.

The government, Peres maintained, had merely pledged that it would not raise the price of subsidized goods in the first month of the freeze. This did not mean that it could not raise these prices in the second and third months of the agreement which took effect on November 2.

Involved are six basic commodities - bread, milk, eggs, chicken, oil and public transportation.

The premier said that the government would continue to seek ways to cut \$175m. on top of the \$375m. cut the cabinet had approved last Friday.

Peres said Deputy Finance Minister Adiel Amora'i has been appointed to head a special body within the joint government-Histadrut and employers body set up to deal with the package deal. This panel will seek ways and means to fight unemployment arising out of the current situation.

Peres praised the country's social workers who have agreed to give up part of their salaries in a move to prevent the dismissal of some 280 colleagues. He called on the teachers to emulate this example.

## Treasury studies how to lure public's dollars into banks

By AVI TEMKIN  
Post Economic Reporter

The Treasury and the Bank of Israel are studying how to pry out from "under the mattress" foreign currency held by the public. But the central bank has reservations about giving additional benefits to holders of these sums.

According to sources in the banking system, a Bank of Israel team is estimating the sum involved. The sources added that the team's estimate will be ready next week, but there is no decision whether to make the figure public.

Israel annually loses very large sums of interest for the dollars the public holds in cash. The plan is to entice these dollars into attractive interest-bearing bank accounts.

The authorities want to limit the inducements to the \$2,000 everyone may hold in cash, so that those who illegally have larger sums do not benefit.

The central bank has already stated that it will be almost impossible to distinguish between the legitimate and illegitimate sums.

In the bank's view, the best way to attract the foreign currency back into the banking system is to increase public confidence in the capital market, a feat that can be accomplished only if the economy is healed.

The bank does not believe that a higher interest rate will convince the public to invest its foreign cash holdings in savings schemes if it has no confidence in the government and its policies.

## Woman killed, 3 hurt in S. Lebanon village

Jerusalem Post Staff

TEL AVIV. - Israeli troops shot and killed a woman after entering a South Lebanon village and coming under attack from villagers throwing stones, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said the Israeli patrol fired in self-defence after the villagers in Jibchit pelted them with rocks Monday evening. They then withdrew from the village.

Jibchit, six kilometres southwest of Nabatiya, is a focal point of Shi'ite Moslem resistance to Israeli troops.

The sources said they did not

know the specific reason why the patrol entered the village.

Lebanese newspapers identified the victim as 35-year-old Meryam Ahmed Nabhal. The newspapers said three other villagers were wounded, including an 11-year-old boy.

Israeli troops imposed a curfew in the town after the confrontation and brought in reinforcements of about 50 vehicles, Lebanese newspapers reported. The curfew was lifted at 4 a.m. yesterday, the newspapers reported.

## Yavne police hunt missing twin girls

Police are searching for 11-year-old twin girls who disappeared in Yavne yesterday afternoon. Israel Radio reported last night.

The twins, Edna and Orna Vasker, last seen at the Ben-Gurion

School, are 1.40 metres tall. Both have long, straight black hair which they were wearing in pony tails. One was wearing a grey track suit with red stripes and a Smurf print, and the other a red track suit with white stripes.

## Peretz compels gov't to re-open Shas-NRP deal

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

At a special five-minute meeting last night, the cabinet gave in to Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz's ultimatum and agreed to re-negotiate the division of responsibilities between the Interior and Religious Affairs Ministries.

Peretz, currently a minister without portfolio, then withdrew, at least for the time being, his threat to resign from the government in protest against being offered the Interior Ministry portfolio stripped of some of its authority on religious matters.

The cabinet agreed to postpone the appointment of religious affairs and interior ministers, and to reappoint Ministers Moshe Shahal (Alignment) and Haim Corfu (Likud) to negotiate by next week the division of the portfolios with Peretz and Minister without Portfolio Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party.

The brief evening meeting was the second meeting of the day over the dispute between Peretz's Shas and Burg's NRP about the two ministries.

At the first cabinet meeting yesterday morning, Peretz had declared that he would leave the government unless negotiations were reopened on a document formulated by Shahal on the division of responsibilities between the ministries.

"We have been deceived all along. Until today's cabinet meeting we never even saw the document prepared by Shahal and the NRP," Peretz said.

Peretz demanded that every one of the document's 18 clauses be renegotiated. He demanded that the discussions be completed by next Tuesday and agreement brought to the government and then immediately to the Knesset for approval.

The document specifies the functional alterations to be made in the Interior Ministry - which will be given Shas - and in the Religious

Affairs Ministry, to be given the NRP.

According to the document prepared by Shahal, budgets for religious buildings would be transferred from the Housing and Interior Ministries to the Religious Affairs Ministry. Two-thirds of the Interior Ministry's budget for religious councils would also be transferred to the Religious Affairs Ministry.

After discussions with both Shas and NRP leaders which lasted all of Monday night, Shahal had thought both parties would accept the document, or at least be prepared to accept it initially and leave the controversial issues open to continued discussion.

But at yesterday morning's meeting, Peretz flatly rejected Shahal's proposal that a joint Interior-Housing committee on religious institutions be changed to a Religious Affairs-Housing committee.

Burg and Peretz agreed to Prime Minister Shimon Peres's suggestion to postpone the matter by one week, during which the controversies would be settled.

But after consulting with Shas's Council of Torah Sages leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Peretz returned and whispered in Shahal's ear: "Ovadia Yosef demands that Shas pull out of the government right away."

At Peres's request, Peretz then agreed to discuss the matter again with Yosef and ask for one week's respite.

Peretz prepared a resignation letter, saying that reluctant as he is to be the first to withdraw from the national unity government, "things have gone beyond all limits and I cannot disobey orders."

The cabinet decided to hold a second meeting only if Peretz announced his resignation. If he did not, it was agreed, it would mean he accepted the proposal to postpone the decision on the portfolios for one week.

But Peretz later demanded another cabinet meeting to decide on reopening negotiation on the Shahal document.



Small streams of water sweep through some southern Tel Aviv neighbourhoods yesterday within minutes after an early afternoon downpour. But this youngster doesn't seem to mind. (Andre Bruttman)

## Ghali: Mutual Israel-PLO recognition is key to peace

By DAVID BERNSTEIN  
Post Middle East Affairs Reporter

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, was quoted as saying yesterday that mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO is the key to accelerating the peace process in the region.

"There is the political will in the PLO, in the Egyptian administration and in the Jordanian administration to do something now," Ghali said in an interview with Reuters, noting that "if mutual recognition can be obtained, this will help create a new momentum in favour of the peace process."

Ghali's remarks reflect the new Egyptian-Jordan-PLO link which lies at the core of this week's joint communiqué issued following King Hussein's visit to Cairo, and which appear to represent a fundamental shift in Egypt's attitude to future peace moves.

Asked about the reference in the communiqué to the international Middle East peace conference prop-

osed by Hussein, Ghali indicated that this was not of immediate relevance. Ideally, he was quoted as saying, all countries should participate, but failing that, "it would be very negative to postpone the peace process until we can obtain the participation of all concerned."

Ghali stressed that time is running out for the kind of "land for peace" solution that Egypt and Jordan are proposing on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242. He noted that "if something is not done quickly, we may reach a point where 242 will be impossible to apply because there will be no more land."

He indicated that, for this reason, the future of the West Bank and Gaza are the top priority, but that at a later stage, a global solution would require Syrian participation in the negotiated withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"What we are aiming for is that at least in the beginning of a new peace process, we can obtain from Syria an attitude of neutralism towards it (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

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## India's poison gas disaster toll could exceed 1,000

BHOPAL, India. - At least 1,000 people, most of them children and the aged, died in this central Indian city in one of the worst industrial accidents on record as poison gas from a pesticide plant blanketed a residential area, officials said yesterday.

Doctors said they had counted 500 corpses at the city's major hospitals amid reports of at least 500 other fatalities at hospitals nearby.

Authorities said 600 bodies had been found and police teams were searching for more victims of the deadly gas leak from a U.S.-built pesticide plant in downtown Bhopal. Most of the dead were children and old people who could not run

away, while others died in their sleep, it was revealed.

Doctors feared the death toll could climb even higher and the United News of India news agency reported that its own investigation had found at least 1,120 dead.

UNI said 345 victims had been buried at Bhopal's central Sirdas Manzil graveyard and a further 445 had been cremated in an area of the city called Chola Vishram Ghar.

Bhopal was almost a ghost town with most offices and businesses closed yesterday - an officially declared day of mourning. Streets were littered with carcasses of water buffalo, dogs and birds.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told reporters after a tour of the stricken

city of 900,000 that his government in the future would not allow production of "dangerous" materials in heavily populated areas. Gandhi visited hospital wards and talked to orphans.

There were also fears the accident would cause severe long-term health problems.

Dr. Praveen Chaudhary, at Bhopal's Hamedia hospital said there was a danger that many survivors might lose their eyesight and that women might not be able to bear children.

The U.S.-based Union Carbide Corporation which owns the plant rushed a technical team to investigate the causes of the disaster. Authorities have ordered the

victims to pay compensation to the company. UNI said an estimated 200,000 people were in some way affected by the gas, identified as Methyl Isocyanate, which seeped through the sleeping city early Monday.

The company has called an immediate worldwide halt to production and shipment of methyl isocyanate, a liquid material that becomes gaseous when it comes in contact with air.

The parent company in Danbury, Connecticut, said filters on the leaking underground tank at the Indian plant did not function, allowing the poison gas to escape into the atmosphere. (AP, Reuters)

JPV 10150



## The weather at major Swissair destinations

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AMSTERDAM	3-22	14	Clear
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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy with local showers.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	69	5-14	13
Golan	62	4-13	12
Nahariya	68	5-11	10
Safed	66	14-19	18
Tiberias	58	8-18	17
Nazareth	61	9-17	16
Afula	54	5-20	18
Shomron	73	6-14	13
Tel Aviv	60	12-17	18
B-G Airport	60	10-19	18
Jericho	60	9-20	20
Gaza	75	13-19	18
Beer-sheva	47	10-19	18
Eilat	30	13-24	24

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Jerusalem Rotary Club will hold a business meeting at 1 o'clock today at the YMCA.

The Haifa Rotary Club will hold a business meeting at the Nof Hotel, 1 o'clock today.

The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East will host a symposium tomorrow on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Israel's second president, the late Yitzhak Ben-Zvi. The symposium on Jewish heritage research in the East will begin at 6 p.m.

## 'Amin called for revenge at Bashir's funeral'

**Jerusalem Post Correspondent**  
**NEW YORK.** — Time magazine correspondent David Halvay yesterday testified that at the funeral of Bashir Jemayel in September 1982, he heard Amin Jemayel say: "We'll avenge you, brother Bashir; we'll revenge your blood."

Under cross-examination by Thomas Barr, the chief lawyer for Time in Ariel Sharon's \$50 million libel suit against the magazine, Halvay said that at the funeral, he saw columns of young Phalangists, many of them armed, "dancing and singing, 'revenge, revenge'... The funeral was highly emotional, and reminded me more of [the burial] of a Roman emperor by his centurions than something of the 20th century."

Barr asked Halvay why he did not include any mention of Amin Jemayel's call for revenge in the story he filed to Time. Halvay replied, "It was all so obvious, so natural that after the president [elect] of Lebanon was killed along with 26 of his top officials... that [the Phalangist] would take revenge. It is customary in every Middle Eastern country..."

Halvay explained that during the course of September 16 and 17, "I heard... statements of which I only saw the significance later. One high-ranking Israeli [intelligence] officer said, 'We are leaving the city... and going home.' The next morning another intelligence officer said something very ugly is taking place in Beirut."

## Citrus Marketing Board names new manager

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
**TEL AVIV.** — The board of directors of the Citrus Marketing Board on Monday decided to appoint Yitzhak Rahav as its general manager.

The acting chairman, Gedalia Gal of Tnuva Export, will continue in his job until the end of the present export season.

Rahav served in the Israel Navy and has been the Ports Authority general manager for seven years.

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## HOME NEWS

### 20,000 jobless by next month, official warns

By DAVID RUDGE

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
**HAIFA.** — The number of jobless is likely to double to 20,000 by January if the present trend continues, Baruch Haklai, director-general of the employment services told reporters yesterday.

By the end of 1985, the figure could even reach 30,000 if the trend continues, he warned.

Haklai is a member of a special committee touring the country to identify areas of high employment which need special treatment.

He said that there has been a gradual but consistent growth in the unemployment rate during the past year, apart from a brief period during the Knesset election campaign.

In December 1983, the total number of jobless was 10,000. By October of this year, it was 16,000. If the trend continues, as seems likely, the number of jobless by January 1985 would reach about 20,000.

Nevertheless, he was optimistic that the economic situation will improve and reverse the trend during 1985, enabling most of the unemployed to find jobs.

Zvi Zilker, director-general of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry, who heads the inquiry team, said they would define areas of high employment as places where 10 per cent of the working population is looking for work, or where a per cent have been out of work for six days or more.

He said Haifa's unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent is below the national average, although there is danger of more people being dismissed if the nearby Ata textile concern is closed.

Zilker revealed that last month his department was notified of 1,323 intended dismissals, 60 per cent of which were likely to materialize.

Aaron Sittner adds from the Knesset:

Unemployment in development towns "is not only a social problem, but a problem of [the future of] Zionism as well." Elazar Granot (Alignment) said yesterday. He spoke at a meeting of the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee, which discussed his and MK Jacques Amir's (Alignment) statement on joblessness in Mitzpe Ramon and Yeroham.

A group of unemployed youths, including recently discharged soldiers, attended the meeting, along with development town leaders.

Granot said: "There is something wrong when graduates of secondary schools in Mitzpe Ramon, as they wait to be inducted into the IDF, are offered only one type of gainful employment — sweeping the streets of their town."

The head of the Yeroham town council asked: "How much longer will we be able to control our people when 30 per cent of our population is

unemployed? The Employment Service's statistics do not tell the whole story. There are many people in Yeroham who are so frustrated that they do not even register with the labour exchange any longer."

The deputy chairman of the council added: "Unless you [the Knesset] establish a new set of national priorities, we shall be compelled to take direct, extremist action."

Eti Naim, an unemployed woman who has just been discharged from the army, said: "I've reached the low point in my hopes for the future. I cannot remain in Yeroham any longer because there are no jobs there. And I cannot leave since I do not have the means to do so."

Most committee members called on the government to lift its freeze on new business connections, and for more orders from the defence establishment to be routed to factories in development towns.

### Cabinet sets special session on defence budget cuts today

By HIRSH GOODMAN

**Post Defence Correspondent**

A crucial cabinet meeting on the defence budget, originally scheduled for yesterday afternoon, is due to be held this morning. At stake is more than the \$100 million the Treasury wants cut from the defence budget. What must be decided is whether the budget is to be \$1.6 billion or \$1.925b.

"Even if we succeed in cutting \$100m, which I doubt, I very much doubt whether there will be agreement on what the actual defence budget is," a participant in the on-going talks said last night.

The gap of over \$300m, separating what the Treasury claims is the defence budget (\$1.6b.) and what the Defence Ministry claims it is (\$1.925b.) stems from different ways of calculating the shekel equivalent to the dollar.

Since the defence budget is in shekels, and the proposed cuts are in dollars, an argument has arisen as to how the dollar value of the defence budget is to be calculated. The Defence Ministry is claiming full linkage to the dollar value of the shekel defence budget on April 1, 1984. The Treasury is prepared to recognize only partial linkage.

"Unless this very basic issue is resolved tomorrow, our talks until now, and the decisions made, are farce and fiction," *The Jerusalem Post* was told.

The Defence Ministry has already agreed this year to cut \$600 million (\$300m. on the orders of former defence minister Moshe Arens and \$300m. by incumbent Yitzhak Rabin).

"But this was done on the understanding that the budget was \$1.925b. If we're speaking about \$1.6b., there's nothing to talk about," a senior defence source said last night.

At today's meeting, senior Treasury officials are expected to demand that the Lavi fighter programme be reassessed. They are not likely to demand that the programme be scrapped, but that it either be slowed down to allow for a major reassessment without committing further funds from the local budget; or that the fighter be downgraded to the relatively cheap "work-horse" it was originally intended to be. This change would mean a \$12m. plane instead of one costing almost \$25m. as the current version of the Lavi is expected to be.

### Ata may have to import cotton

By DAVID RUDGE

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**HAIFA.** — Ata's receivers may import cotton to ensure continued production at the Kiryat Ata plant if the Cotton Marketing Board persists in refusing to make more deliveries, it was learned yesterday.

According to the workers, the factory has only sufficient stocks to last a few days. It received its last delivery of cotton on Monday.

Works committee chairman Pinhas Groob said the CMB is refusing to sell Ata further stocks even for ready cash.

But CMB general manager Yosef Dloomy said the door was still open for negotiations, provided the receivers could pay for new supplies in cash and were prepared to discuss Ata's \$1.6 million debts to the CMB.

He said the board had fulfilled its agreement with the receivers to supply \$150,000 worth of cotton to Ata and the last delivery was made on Monday. The board had already received the money for the supplies.

He said that it had also been agreed, however, that if the need arose for further supplies, the receivers would discuss the question of Ata's debts to the board.

It was earned that the receivers are considering alternative ways of supplying the factory with cotton if the negotiations with the CME breakdown. One possibility is importing the cotton.

Groob appealed to Prime Minister Shimon Peres to provide more funds to ensure the concern's survival for at least another four months, or until a buyer is found.

### Searchers find some 'items' that may have been Kedmi's

By DAVID RUDGE

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**HAIFA.** — Items that may have belonged to Hadass Kedmi, the 20-year-old woman soldier who disappeared last Thursday, were found yesterday during searches for her and David Manos, another missing soldier. The items have been transferred to the police's unit for identification.

The wide-spread search for Kedmi and Manos continued yesterday although rain in the North hampered efforts.

Nearly 6,000 people, including police, soldiers, civil guards and Arab and Druse volunteers, some of them employees of the Sakhin local council participated, aided by tracker dogs, three helicopters and a light plane. The search area was extended to other parts of the country.

The atmosphere on Kedmi's kibbutz Kfar Masaryk was described as sombre as search patrols reported in and it became clear that another day had passed without any trace of her.

Manos, 21-year-old soldier from Petah Tikva, vanished on November 7.

### Herzog invited to European Parliament

By JUDY SIEGEL

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

President Chaim Herzog has been invited to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg in about two months.

Herzog thus becomes the third Middle East head of state in recent years to be invited to speak there. Jordan's King Hussein addressed the assembly last year and the late president of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, did so previously.

The president of the European Parliament, Pierre Pflimlin — a former prime minister of France — sent Herzog the invitation on November 13. Pflimlin hoped that Herzog's appearance would strengthen ties between Israel and the European Community.

Every year the European Parliament invites the head of state of a non-member country to attend a session.

## GHALI

(Continued from Page One)

rather than one of hostility and opposition," he said.

This appeared a forlorn hope, however, with Damascus Radio blasting Monday's joint Egyptian-Jordanian communiqué as "clearly centred on American diplomacy, responding to the Camp David Accords."

*The Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Correspondent adds:*

In Jerusalem yesterday a Foreign Ministry official told newsmen that Israel would seek "clarification" of the joint communiqué.

"The official said there were passages which were 'unacceptable,' but it would be 'premature to say it [the communiqué] is a deviation from Camp David."

The joint communiqué supported the Palestinians' "inalienable right

to self-determination in the form they see fit," and recognized the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Due to the unexpectedly long special cabinet sessions, the conclusion of the Knesset's foreign affairs debate, begun on Monday, was postponed until today.

Vice-Premier Yitzhak Shamir is expected to wind up the debate, taking the opportunity to formulate an Israeli response to the Egyptian-Jordanian joint communiqué.

Yesterday Shamir told visiting Italian deputy premier Bruno Corbi that the PLO was the major obstacle to peace. An Israeli official quoted Shamir as saying that the European attitude accepting the PLO as the legitimate spokesman for the Palestinians was "counterproductive."

### Sale of country's railways to Israel Chemicals urged

By AVI TEMKIN

**Post Economic Reporter**

The Treasury wants Israel Chemicals, a government-owned corporation, to buy and run Israel Railways. The plan is included in the list of measures to reduce government spending and personnel.

According to the Treasury's plans, the corporation, which is the major customer of the railway services, would decide which lines to close and which to maintain. It is fairly clear that the only passenger line to survive would be that between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The director-general of the Government's Corporation Authority, Azriel Waldman, said yesterday no decision has been taken on any deal affecting the railways. But government sources said yesterday that Israel Chemicals has the needed sums at its disposal and the plans would proceed. If the deal goes through it could affect some of the 2,000 railway employees, but that would be no concern to the Transport Ministry.

The Treasury is also studying the ways to implement Friday's cabinet decision to slash the state budget by \$375m.

Among other things the Finance Ministry will demand is that universities reduce personnel by 1,600 workers and that the Bank of Israel and the Jewish Agency should each dismiss some 100 workers.

The Treasury wants to dismiss a total of 11,500 public sector workers. This number does not include military personnel dismissals. The plans also include the closing or reduction of several government bodies such as the Public Works Department, the Israel Fibres Institute, the Government Printing Office, and the Citizen's Advice Service.

According to the ministry, most of the functions of these bodies could be performed by private sector bodies.

**LAMBS.** — One hundred lambs of the Awassi breed were exported yesterday by Kibbutz Ein Harod Ihud to Bulgaria.

### House Committee again defers vote on Kahane's privileges

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

**Post Knesset Reporter**

The House Committee yesterday again deferred its vote on motions designed to deal with racist pronouncements and incitements by Knesset Member Meir Kahane (Kach).

Edna Solodar (Alignment), who initiated the committee's debate when she proposed that Kahane's privileged freedom of movement be revoked, complained about the committee's failure to vote.

"Dragging out our discussion does not serve the cause," she said. Although all committee members who have participated in the debate agree that something should be done to curb Kahane, they disagree on the steps to be taken.

Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir has endorsed Solodar's motion, but he would suspend Kahane's privileged freedom of movement for only one year.

The Likud Knesset faction decided last week to vote against Solodar's motion. Instead, it will propose amending the Immunity Law so that it will not apply to two crimes: a violation of Article 4 of the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance, which deals with encouraging terrorism, and a violation of article 136 of the Penal Law which deals with inciting one sector of the population against another.

Shevah Weiss (Alignment) opposed Solodar's motion on the grounds that, if adopted, it could serve as a precedent for revoking freedom of movement of Tawfik Toubi or Mohammed Mi'ari.

Weiss suggested that the committee put off the vote until the Supreme Court rules on the petition of Kahane's Kach party against the police for preventing him from visiting Taiba.

If the court denies the petition, he said, the police would have been given the authority to block similar attempts by Kahane in future, without any action by the committee.

But Weiss, and apparently the Alignment as a whole, is strongly opposed to amending the Immunity Law.

What the committee members do

seem to agree on is the need to pass a law that would make any party that 'rejects democratic values' ineligible to field a Knesset list.

Yossi Sarid, (Citizens' Rights Movement) urged the committee to request the attorney-general to submit a bill along those lines to the committee within two weeks.

Aaron Sittner adds: By boycotting the Immigration and Absorption Committee — because of the presence of Kahane — committee members from the Alignment "are stabbing immigration in the back." Benny Shalit, a Likud member of the committee charged yesterday.

He also said that "the House Committee, by devoting so much time to efforts to restrict Kahane, is actually playing into his hands and glorifying him."

He said the only way to fight Kahane and his theories is to raise the vote threshold required for Knesset membership.

Kahane told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday: "Believe me, as much as they [the Alignment members] cannot tolerate my presence, I can tolerate them less. However, I have a sense of national duty, so I participate in the committee's activities."

He said that when committee chairwoman Miriam Glazer Ta'asa failed to convene the committee two weeks ago, he threatened her with a *bagat* (appeal to the High Court) "because discussion of such vital issues as Ethiopian and Soviet Jewry cannot and must not be postponed because of personality disagreements between members of the committee."

At yesterday's meeting of the Immigration and Absorption Committee, Hebrew University Prof. Roberto Bachi, former government statistician, predicted that by the end of this century the number of Jews outside Israel would dwindle to about eight million, because of falling birth rates and inter-marriage.

In Israel, too, a demographic problem exists "since more people are shunning marriage and bearing fewer offspring — because of the economic situation as well as shifts in socio-cultural lifestyles."

### Knesset committee round up

By AARON SITTNER

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

Athletes and other persons and groups going abroad as representatives of Israel should be exempted from the travel tax requirement, the chairman of the Sports Committee, Pinhas Goldstein, said yesterday.

Dan Tichon called for more financial support from the Mifal Hapais and Sportot organizations to help the basketball and tennis organizations develop.

The public complaints subcommittee of the State Control Committee held its first meeting and called on police to "pay more attention to civil rights" as they go about their duties. State Comptroller and Ombudsman Yitzhak Tunik said that the police hierarchy "must weed out irregularities," adding that special report on the Israel Police,

due to be published soon, shows many of these irregularities.

A new Knesset body — the Committee for Citizens Appeals — held its first meeting. The informal group receives urgent requests from persons in distress — including the disabled and those facing other hardships — and tries to assist them with a special fund.

Because of manpower problems, Israel Police cannot entirely wipe out the black market in dollars, Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir told the Interior Committee yesterday. As for the illegal possession of dollars by Israelis who already have them, Zamir said that an inter-ministerial committee headed by his assistant — Y. Bar-Sela — "will study the complicated subject related to the purchase, sale and possession of dollars by Israeli citizens."



Lilach Shoshani, of the Nahal Agricultural School, receives first prize on Monday in a competition sponsored by the Histadrut for the best essay on "The Hebrew Labour Movement and the Histadrut." The competition was open to 10th and 11th grade pupils in cities and development towns. Handing Lilach the prize is Nahum Pessa, chairman of the Histadrut's culture and education centre. (Israel Sun)

### Shamir stopped by colleagues from naming Dekel to post

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

Vice-Premier Yitzhak Shamir was yesterday bulldozed by his Likud colleagues into postponing the appointment of Knesset Member Michael Dekel as deputy defence minister. The threat of Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i to fire his deputy Adi Amora'i (Alignment) together with the opposition of Likud members at the cabinet meeting forced Shamir to drop the issue.

As a result, Shamir brought only the appointment of MK Ronnie Milo as deputy foreign minister to the meeting. This was approved with no objections.

When Shamir was about to raise the appointment of deputy ministers — which was not on the cabinet's agenda — Deputy Prime Minister David Levy opposed him strongly on procedural grounds and because there was no agreement on this in the Likud.

"I warn you, I beg you to consider the consequences. It will cause a rift

in the party and muddy the atmosphere," Levy told Shamir.

At first Shamir refused to listen. Moda'i then threatened to fire Amora'i as a means of pressuring Shamir to appoint a Liberal deputy minister. Moda'i insisted that Shamir propose the Herut deputy minister at the same time he proposes a Liberal deputy minister, an appointment which was promised the Liberals. Shamir agreed to discuss the matter in the Likud faction separately and the meeting stopped until after the discussion.

At the Likud faction meeting, Shamir found himself in a minority position. He agreed to drop the appointment of deputy defence minister and, returning to the cabinet meeting, proposed only Milo's appointment as deputy foreign minister.

Shamir afterwards promised Dekel, who came into his room: "Don't worry Michael, you will be deputy defence minister despite everything."

### Hospital in Safad hit by power cuts

By DAVID RUDGE

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**

**HAIFA.** — The Israel Electric Corporation has cut power supplies to a staff residential building and a training centre at the Safad hospital because the hospital has not paid debts totalling IS3.3 million.

The IEC spokesman warned of further power cuts, but he stressed that these would not affect the workings of the hospital itself or the patients.

Other hospitals throughout the country are also behind in paying their November bills, but the IEC has not decided to take similar action against them. They include Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera, which owes IS12.6m., Nahariya Hospital, which owes IS4.5m., Givat Shaul Psychiatric Hospital in Jerusalem, which owes IS2m. and Bikur Holim in Jerusalem, which has IS4.9m. outstanding.

### Senior Jordanian diplomat assassinated in Bucharest

**AMMAN (Reuters).** — A senior Jordanian diplomat, Azmi Mufri, was shot dead in Bucharest yesterday while taking his child to school, Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmed Obaidat said. Another diplomat was wounded in the attack, diplomats in Bucharest said.

Obaidat told the Lower House of Deputies that Rumanian authorities said they had arrested the killer, identified as Ahmed Moh'd Ali Haris. He was described as a mentally deranged Jordanian student born near Nabulus.

Mufri was a counsellor at the embassy. There have been a string of attacks, some fatal, on Jordanian diplomats abroad in the past two years.

Greek police detained a man who reportedly attempted to shoot the second-ranking official at the Jordanian embassy in Athens.

nian embassy in Athens on November 7 last year. The Jordanian Ambassadors in Rome and New Delhi were also shot and wounded last year. A group calling itself the Front for Syrian Struggle said it had carried out the Rome attack.

Last week, 11 Palestinian and Jordanian opposition groups based in Damascus said they have formed a new front with the aim of overthrowing Jordan's King Hussein.

The threat followed a controversial session of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, in Amman, which was boycotted by five Syrian-backed Palestinian terrorist factions.



## Many hotels neglect fire safety rules

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Neglect by hotels of fire safety regulations is widespread, with builders, architects and engineers often ignoring rules intended for the safety of the public, according to Ram Kachlon, head of the fire service in the Interior Ministry.

Kachlon said he was often amazed by those involved in planning hotels and by some of the safety measures they do adopt. In one case, he said, a hotel put up a partition, intended to delay the spread of fire, composed of wood and painted to look like a fire-proof substance.

Referring to five Netanyahu hotels which had their "recommended for tourists" rating withdrawn by the Tourism Ministry because they lacked safety precautions, he said that some had failed to provide adequate emergency stairways and lacked smoke detectors, pressurized water on every floor and emergency lights.

But he said that despite these lapses, the hotels were relatively safe

and did not need to be closed. The Tourism Ministry move was a form of pressure intended to force the hoteliers to raise their fire safety level.

Referring to last February's fire at the Moriah Dead Sea Hotel, he said that the hotel had ignored fire service demands for the construction of an additional stairwell and had instead installed an outdoor fire-escape.

Kachlon denied allegations that the main problem in battling the hotel blaze was that there was only one fire service employee in the Dead Sea region (who was not on hand) when fire erupted. Despite the large number of hotels on the Dead Sea, the fire service cannot maintain a station there or hire eight or 10 employees to man it, he said.

He also denied allegations that fire regulations vary from locality to locality, although he admitted that in some areas, a local fire chief may be "extra-zealous" and demand stringent adherence to the rules. According to the most recent rules pub-

lished in 1982, a hotel with over 100 rooms must have smoke detectors in all areas, with automatic extinguishers in the more crucial locations.

But former Tel Aviv fire chief Ya'acov Ritov, who now works as a private fire safety consultant, termed the demand for smoke detectors throughout a hotel a "smoke screen" intended to divert public attention from the fact that the fire service is inadequate.

Ritov said that although installing smoke detectors in hotels under construction was not too expensive for an old hotel this constituted a major investment. In such buildings, he said, it would be sufficient to have smoke detectors in such sensitive areas as laundry rooms and those containing electric boxes.

Both men agreed that hotels don't train their staff to deal with fire emergencies.

"We are willing to provide the training free of charge," Kachlon declared, "but they don't take advantage of it."



A policewoman yesterday displays some of the 200 lithographs stolen from a Tel Aviv public relations firm. Being held as suspects are a 21-year-old employee of the firm, her sister and the sister's boyfriend, a singer. The sale of the lithographs was supposed to finance the boyfriend's new record according to police. (Yonatan Selinger)

## Hope for Soviet Jews in close U.S.-Russian ties

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Ministerial Committee on Aliya and Absorption yesterday heard a hopeful assessment of the situation facing Soviet Jewry. A Foreign Ministry representative told the ministers that there is a "good chance" that Russian Jews will again be allowed to leave as relations between the U.S. and the USSR warm up.

The two-hour session was the second that the ministerial committee has held since it was established last month. Chaired by Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur, it was also attended by Ministers David Leviv, Mordechai Gur, Moshe Katsav, Yosef Shapira and Yitzhak Peretz.

Appearing before the committee was an immigrant from Leningrad. He reported that Soviet Jews feel that Israel's government and citizens are not doing enough to help them. But after coming here a year ago, he

found that much indeed was being done. It is very important, he told the ministers, that Russian Jews be informed of what is being done for them.

Tsur approved the proposal that a mass event be held later this month, during Hanukkah, to bring attention to the occasion of Soviet Jewry Solidarity Week.

Meanwhile, next Monday - Human Rights Day - the families of refuseniks and Prisoners of Zion will march from the Finnish Embassy in Tel Aviv to the U.S. Embassy. Marching with them will be women of The 355 - the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry - dressed as prisoners and chained together to depict Prisoners of Zion.

The marchers will call at embassies of countries that signed the Helsinki Agreement. Citizens of these countries will meet with their ambassadors and will present a letter listing Soviet human-rights violations.

## Tel Aviv court sets bail for suspected hoarder of bullets

TEL AVIV. (Itim.) - A Lod man charged with illegal possession of explosives was ordered released on bail by a Tel Aviv District Court yesterday which faulted police for dragging out their investigation.

Bashir Yitum and his wife Fadida were arrested in May for having stockpiled fragmentary grenades, explosive packets weighing up to half a kilogram, and assorted bullets in plastic bags stashed under car wrecks dumped across from their home. She was held because, as she testified before the Ramle Magistrate's Court, she had instructed her husband's younger brother, a minor, to find another hiding place for the explosives, thus becoming an accessory.

The Ramle court had ordered Bashir Yitum remanded until the end of his trial. The defendant's brother, who had confessed his guilt in a juvenile court, later retracted his statement. This led to long delays in preparing for Yitum's trial.

The defendant's lawyer yesterday asked that bail be set because the prosecution would still be some time in building its case. Judge Edmond Levi noted the seriousness of the defendant's alleged crime, but he said the court took a dim view of repeated requests to postpone trial procedures, which also constituted a serious threat to the public interest.

The judge ordered police to bring the proceedings against Yitum to a swift conclusion.

## Jilted lover, 64, is charged with killing nurse, 62

Shmuel Brooks, 64, of Kiryat Yam, was charged yesterday with the murder in October of Masha Efrati, 62, a nurse and Rakah Party activist. The charge sheet, presented to the Jerusalem District Court, says that Brooks entered Efrati's apartment in Jerusalem sometime between October 19 and 21, beat her around the head, and bit her and stabbed her all over her body.

The charge sheet contains a list of 48 prosecution witnesses.

The police have said that Brooks is suspected of having killed Efrati because she refused to marry him.

They say that tests made on his dentures show that they match the bites on Efrati's body.

The prosecution asked the court to detain Brooks until the end of his trial. Brooks' lawyer asked to have the hearings deferred until he has the chance of studying all the material the police have submitted. (Itim)

## Public official out on bail, accused of taking bribes

TEL AVIV (Itim.) - An Interior Ministry sanitary engineer, Zvi Ofer, 62, suspected of taking bribes, was released yesterday on IS250,000 bail. Police representatives told Judge Hadassah Ahituv in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court that Ofer's arrest is part of a nationwide investigation into bribetaking by officials whose jobs involve public sanitation.

Ofer denied taking bribes and said he does not understand what he is being charged with.

The police representatives told the judge that the Interdecos company, which imports sanitary equipment for use in markets and other public places, last April asked the ministry to allow Ofer to head a

delegation of local council representatives visiting sanitary equipment companies abroad.

The ministry forbade him from taking the trip at Interdecos's expense. He would be allowed to go only if he received a formal invitation from a foreign government; the ministry said.

The police representative said that Ofer went abroad in July, a month after the delegation had left, together with an Interdecos agent. The company paid for the flight and expenses abroad. Ofer also allegedly received sums of money from the agent and dined at restaurants in Israel on the company's account.

## USS Eisenhower to host Israel's who's who

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - The visiting U.S. aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower will hold an official reception for the "who's who" in Israel on Saturday.

The on-board reception will begin just 17 minutes after the end of the Shabbat at 5.30 p.m. Shabbat ends at 5.13 p.m.

It will take about half an hour by boat to reach the ship, which is anchored a couple of kilometres off shore.

The reception is being handled by the U.S. Embassy and the large number of invitations were sent to ministers and other public personalities.

President Chaim Herzog will go by train from Tel Aviv to Haifa and take over the controls in the engine car when he visits Israel Railways today.

In Haifa, Herzog will visit the Railway Museum, tour the railways headquarters and talk to workers at two repair stations.

Railways director Zvi Tzafirri warned last week that some cars on the rails are in poor and even dangerous condition due to the lack of maintenance funds.

## Sex offender to get hormones to repress urges

HAIFA (Itim.) - A district court judge here yesterday recommended that a man convicted of indecent assault receive hormone treatment during his jail term to overcome his sexual urges.

Judge Chaim Pizam sentenced Shlomo Lift to 30 months in jail and two-years suspended sentence, and recommended that combined hormonal and psychiatric treatment be given during the jail term.

Lift, 25, was convicted of indecent assault on three Pardes Hanna women. In one case, he attacked a

soldier on her way home from the bus station, but ran off when she bit him. In the other cases, he entered the women's apartments and attacked them.

Psychiatrist Moshe Avnon, director of Sha'ar Menashe government mental hospital in Hadera, recommended the treatment, saying that "imprisonment won't solve his problem and could even hurt him." The judge accepted the recommendation, but said the prison sentence was given because "we have to protect the public from a man who cannot control his sexual urges."

## Police confiscate \$3,501 from five men in TA

TEL AVIV (Itim.) - Police arrested five men suspected of illegal trading in foreign currency near the Yehuda Halevi Street here in the past two days and confiscated \$3,501 they were holding.

Police also confiscated large amounts of shekels from the suspects.

All the men, one from Petah Tikva, one from Bat Yam and three from Tel Aviv, were released on bail.

## Juvenile diabetes hits Ashkenazim most

TEL AVIV (Itim.) - Juvenile diabetes is most prevalent among Ashkenazi Jews and least prevalent among Arabs, the annual conference of the Israel Diabetes Association was told yesterday.

Scientists, doctors and patients attending the conference at Kfar Hamaccabiah were also told that 5 per cent of the adult population suffers from adult diabetes. This is

higher than in western countries. In the 70-80 age bracket, the rate reaches 15 per cent in Israel.

"Diabetes should be fought like we fight against cancer," Prof. Elazar Shafir of the IDA told the press. "It is a complex disease," he said.

During the conference, Dr. Avi Karnieli was awarded the Wolfson prize of \$1,000 for his research into diabetes at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

## USO opens in Haifa

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - The American United Services Organization (USO) opened a centre in Haifa this week coinciding with the visit of 6,000 sailors and airmen of the USS Eisenhower and Mississippi. The ships are staying until Tuesday.

The USO, a non-governmental voluntary organization funded by donations, was established in World War II by parents of U.S. servicemen to provide them with canteen and entertainment facilities.

Jo Dimartino, USO director of Mediterranean fleet centres who came here for the opening, said the Haifa centre is the 32nd in the Mediterranean area.

The USO has rented premises in the arcade in the Gan Ha'em park on Mount Carmel.

Gila Gerson has been appointed resident USO representative for Haifa.

## President will visit Israel Railways today

Jerusalem Post Reporter

President Chaim Herzog will go by train from Tel Aviv to Haifa and take over the controls in the engine car when he visits Israel Railways today.

In Haifa, Herzog will visit the Railway Museum, tour the railways headquarters and talk to workers at two repair stations.

Railways director Zvi Tzafirri warned last week that some cars on the rails are in poor and even dangerous condition due to the lack of maintenance funds.

## Herziya police close illegal TV station

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Herziya police, working in conjunction with the Communications Ministry, yesterday closed a private cable TV station supplying programmes to hundreds of subscribers.

It was one of several illegal cable operations that has been closed recently. Police found expensive video

machinery, eight movies and a register of hundreds of subscribers to the illegal service.

The station had been operating since last May. The owners offered no resistance to arrest.

While the police are interrogating the pirate cable operators, tax authorities have also begun to look into their business.

## Escaped murderer caught after month-long hunt

HAIFA (Itim.) - Policemen from the Haifa subdistrict's central unit yesterday captured fugitive murderer David Sabag after a month-long manhunt. Sabag was caught in Ashdod as he was walking near the absorption centre.

Sabag was convicted of murdering an elderly Haifa money-changer after kidnapping the man from his Kiryat Eliezer house a year ago. He was sentenced to 12 years in jail.

Sabag escaped on November 5 when he was brought to the Haifa district attorney's office, a day before he was scheduled to testify against his alleged partner in the murder.

## Mushrooming clinics worry dentists, Health Min.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Dentists were not trained in Israel until the 1960s. But Israelis aware of the need for regular dental care and able to afford it have enjoyed and continued to receive good treatment. The school programmes of the Health Ministry have aided and educated generations of children and the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem has by now trained many fine practitioners.

But many dentists and health authorities are worried about the newer commercial dental clinics which, although in most cases violate current laws on administrative practices and advertising, may soon be legalized.

One need only take a look at what has happened in the U.S. since dentists have been permitted to advertise. Dental clinics have become street-corner affairs and even department stores like Sears Roebuck have opened dental clinics in the store, selling dental care like shirts or shoes.

No one wants to see this happen in Israel, but many people want to see dental care available to everyone at reasonable prices. Parents should not be forced to choose between having essential dental work done for a child, such as seeing an orthodontist, or having their own teeth treated. And many parents do neglect their own tooth care in order to afford it for their children.

## Dental care survey-III D'vora Ben Shaul

Private dentists maintain that they are able to monitor prices and practices in their own field. One hopes this is so because the tiny staff available to the Health Ministry cannot handle this job. Nor can the ministry hope to police the commercial clinics where authorities say even more attention is necessary. While the dentists in the clinics may give excellent care, the management must be prevented from cutting corners by using sub-standard materials because they are cheaper.

As to the advertising and employment laws, the current double standard will not hold for long. The law says a dentist, doctor, lawyer, etc. may not advertise. But every lawyer sees to it when he gets an acquittal that the newspapers mention that the defendant was represented by lawyer X. This is news and not advertising. Nor is an eminent professor of medicine with a large private practice advertising when he gives an interview to the press

about his success with some special operation or technique. Health funds are on the air constantly advertising their services and saying "come to Kupat Holim A or B" and the doctors and dentists who work for them are not said to be advertising.

But if a commercial dental clinic puts up a sign or runs an advertisement stating simply "emergency dental care, night and Shabbat, TOOTH CARE, address and telephone," they are in violation of the advertising laws.

As for the employment laws, they too are subject to interpretation. Health funds, kibbutzim, companies and other organizations hire physicians and dentists on salary. But a dental clinic may not, by law, hire a dentist unless the management are themselves dentists.

The laws in question are now under scrutiny and a law changing the employment regulation is now in the Knesset for consideration.

All of this brings us back to the subject of control. If commercial dental clinics continue to mushroom, and if the dental association doesn't succeed in monitoring its professional members, then who will do it?

The Health Ministry is simply going to have to allocate more funds for monitoring dental care than it does at present. Budget restrictions notwithstanding, the subject cannot be left uncontrolled because it can affect the future of the entire dental care system in Israel.

Correction: The second article on dental care which appeared yesterday was in no way meant to imply that the standards of dental care in Israel are sub-standard. This was an error.

## Arafat's visit to London may be 'on'

By HYAM CORNEY  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. - The on-off visit to London this month of PLO leader Yasser Arafat in connection with the publication of his new biography may be on again.

Following last week's decision by publishers Sidgwick and Jackson to withdraw an invitation to Arafat, the author of the book, Alan Hart, announced that the invitation has been reissued by himself and the pro-Arab Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (Caabu).

Hart, who claims to have the support of prominent MPs for the visit, says he is "challenging the government to publicly state that Arafat would be welcome in Britain." He added that "there is no valid reason for blocking the visit on grounds of security. It is simply a political ques-

tion: Is the government prepared to give him a visa?"

Hart, who describes Arafat as "a peacemaker," said that the PLO leader was "insulted" by the publishers' decision to withdraw their invitation. David Watkins, a former labour MP and now director of Caabu, said that he was "disturbed" at the withdrawal of the original invitation.

Hart added: "I will be very surprised if Arafat does not come in the near future."

HUNGARY. - Eleventh Grade pupils in Acre raised IS700,000 for Ethiopian drought victims in a two-day campaign. Pupils and staff at the American International School in Kfar Shmaryahu raised IS2 million for Ethiopia's hungry, which they will present to Abie Nathan when he visits the school today.

LOTTO HEIST. - Nearly 300 lottery tickets were stolen in broad daylight yesterday from an aged ticket seller while he was walking in Tel Aviv's Hatikva quarter. The robbers, two young men, grabbed the bags of tickets he was carrying and fled.

## Even some haredim are terrorized by zealots

By ROBERT ROSENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jerusalem Municipality has been getting telephone calls from religious residents of ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoods, asking for help in combatting what the applicants are calling "violent intimidation." A municipal spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said that many callers said that they had wanted to participate in a meeting last Sunday of victims of haredim (ultra-Orthodox) violence, but feared retribution from religious zealots in their neighbourhoods.

"We've had many calls from haredim who want our help, because they are afraid to go to the police," said spokesman Rafi Davara. He said that while many haredim differ with the municipality over matters of religion, "more than 90 per cent of the Jerusalem religious community agrees with us on the matter of public order, and oppose violence."

The Jerusalem Post has learned

that extremists in Mea She'arim have sought to force out of the community those haredi residents considered too liberal.

The extremists have forcibly shaved women's heads, ostracized men or refused them service in shops, and bullied children.

In addition, police records indicate some 60 incidents have been reported of violence by haredim against non-religious Jerusalemites in the past year. Police sources estimate that there have been dozens more incidents in which the victims preferred not to complain, often because of fears of retribution.

The police are not attributing the incidents to a "guiding hand" but believe that "probably many of the incidents inside the community are committed by the same individuals," a source said.

The meetings Sunday night at Jerusalem's Beit Agnon of victims of ultra-Orthodox violence were attended by top-ranking police officers, including Southern District De-

puty Commander Rahamim Comfort (formerly chief of Jerusalem's police) and current capital Police Chief Haim Albalades. A police spokesman emphasized yesterday that the officers attended the meeting as "guests."

The meeting, which drew about 100 people, heard speeches by several victims, including Dr. Uzi Ritte, who was seriously injured last year when a 14-year-old haredi boy threw a stone through Ritte's windshield when the Hebrew University scientist accidentally drove into a religious neighbourhood on Shabbat. (The boy was later convicted for the action.)

The meeting was organized on an ad hoc basis, and included religious spokesmen, including former deputy mayor David Bergman of the National Religious Party, who said that "anybody who thinks that throwing rocks at cars on Shabbat is doing God's will is making a big mistake. It's the exact opposite of what halacha teaches."

Cries for violence to be used against violence were shouted down. But there were murmurs of agreement with speakers who said that "since there's no difference between a rock thrown by an Arab and a rock thrown by a Jew," the homes of convicted rock throwers among the ultra-Orthodox "should be blocked up like the homes of Arab rock throwers are closed to the owners."

## "Let Us Care For Our Little Ones..."

Gift-giving on Hanukkah is a Jewish tradition. The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund is a Hanukkah tradition, for Israeli children in government institutions and foster homes.

To these youngsters, the essence of the kindling spirit of Hanukkah depends on your generosity.

For 36 years, you've shown them you care. This year, the Toy Fund is in dire need of contributions. Please, give generously.

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JERUSALEM: The Jerusalem Post Building, Room 4 Industrial Zone; TEL AVIV: 11 Carlebach St.; HAIFA: 16 Nordau St., Hadar Hacarmel. Or send by mail directly to The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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## Hostage killed in Kuwait hijacking

TEHERAN (Reuters). — Arabic-speaking hijackers forced a Kuwaiti Airbus to Tehran's Mehrabad Airport yesterday, and killed one hostage, but later released five women and 12 children from the plane, security guards at the airport revealed.

A crew member of an incoming Iranian flight said he had overheard the hijackers telling control tower officials that they would start killing one passenger every 15 minutes, starting with Britons.

The crew member quoted the hijackers as telling the control tower in Arabic: "We are against the British. As long as there is a Briton on board we will not hurt the others."

It was not known how many Britons were among at least 155 people aboard the Kuwait Airways Airbus, but diplomatic sources said the pilot, whom they named as J.A.K. Clark, was British, and there were possibly two others.

Of the total number of passengers 127 were Pakistanis. The nationalities of the other 28 were not immediately known.

About 17 hours after the plane was commandeered following a stop at Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, en route to Karachi, Pakistan, no announcement had been made of any demands by the hijackers, believed to number five.

Security guards at the airport and the national news agency Irna said one passenger had been killed and another wounded during a scuffle on board after the plane had landed in Teheran.

A security guard at the airport said a man, whose identity was not known, had been shot and then kicked off the plane. The hijackers then fired at the body again on the tarmac, the guard said.

Irna said the man died on the way to hospital. The wounded passenger

was not allowed to leave the plane, but the hijackers called for and received medical aid.

The plane was standing on a side runway with all blinds drawn and under heavy guard. About 20 emergency vehicles were standing by several hundred metres away.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Irna, said his country condemned any form of hijacking and that utmost efforts were being made to save the passengers and crew.

Iran allowed the plane to land for humanitarian reasons, Irna said.

The Foreign Ministry said the pilot radioed that the hijackers had threatened to blow up the aircraft and that he was running out of fuel.

The diplomatic sources said most of the people on the plane were Pakistanis. At least one American was also believed to be among the passengers, they added.

## 'Relief supplies don't reach most starving Ethiopians'

NAIROBI. — Secessionist wars and the lack of good roads in northern Ethiopia are preventing emergency food supplies from reaching most of the more than six million people threatened with starvation, a Red Cross expert has said.

Anders Wijkman, secretary-general of the Swedish Red Cross and chairman of the relief committee of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told a news conference on Monday that only a million Ethiopians were receiving food aid.

"Vast amounts of money and lives are lost because of the fighting," Wijkman said. He added that many other starving Ethiopians cannot be supplied because there are not enough roads in the precipitous highlands of northern Ethiopia.

Meanwhile, almost 50,000 people fleeing famine in Ethiopia have arrived in drought-stricken parts of eastern Sudan in the past four weeks, a UN spokesman said in Nairobi yesterday.

The spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said that since November 8 about 47,000

people from the northern Ethiopian provinces of Eritrea and Tigray had crossed into Sudan. A further 50,000 Ethiopians were reported to be on the march towards Sudan.

The latest influx of refugees, combined with the arrival in recent weeks of 150,000 Chadians fleeing drought and war in their own country, will sorely stretch Sudan's meagre resources, relief workers said.

Wijkman, who toured five feeding centres run by the Red Cross in Ethiopia for five days last week, said UN agencies "and others" had suggested that Addis Ababa should consider a cease-fire in the conflicts to allow distribution of food.

The Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front, one of several guerrilla movements fighting the government, has proposed a truce to enable food to move to peasants in the northern Eritrean province. But the government has rejected the offer.

Ethiopia's military leader, Mengistu Haile Mariam has said he could guarantee that relief supplies were reaching famine victims.

(AP, Reuters)

## French PM urges calm in troubled New Caledonia

PARIS (Reuters). — French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius appealed yesterday for calm in troubled New Caledonia and said no good could come from confrontation between Europeans and native Melanesians.

Addressing the National Assembly just hours after the government's special envoy, Edgar Pisani, arrived in South Pacific territory to try to resolve the crisis between the two communities, Fabius said:

"I want to make an appeal to the Caledonians. The government wants good sense to win the day and calm to be restored. I understand their tension but I would tell them that no good can come out of disorder and confrontation."

Fabius said the government's priority was to see a rapid return of civil peace and freedom of movement.

For the past two weeks separatist Melanesians, or "Kanakas," have set up road blocks cutting off remote villages in the territory 1,500 kilometres from Australia. They have burned down houses and occupied police stations.

The militant Kanaks want immediate independence. Last weekend they swore in a provisional government in defiance of a new assembly elected last month to give the territory autonomy pending a referendum on independence scheduled for 1989.



New National Party leader Herbert Blaize shares a lighter moment with his wife, Venacia, after his landslide victory in Grenada's first democratic government elections since a 1979 leftist coup.

(UPI)

## Grenada opts for centrists 13 months after U.S. invasion

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada. — The centrist New National Party of Herbert Blaize has won a landslide victory in Grenada's general election, inflicting a crushing defeat on its right-wing and left-wing opponents.

The NNP's nearest challenger in the poll, which will return Grenada to democracy 13 months after a U.S.-led invasion ended the Caribbean island's Marxist revolution, was the right-wing Grenada United Labour Party of Sir Eric Gairy.

Gairy served as the then colony's chief minister from 1962-1967 and returned from exile in January. Blaize made few enemies in 33 years of competing in Grenada's politics, but the 66-year-old attorney was usually overshadowed, first by the flamboyant Gairy and then by magnetic young leftist Maurice Bishop.

The election proved a disaster for Bishop's Patriotic Movement, which groups supporters of the late left-wing prime minister, who was killed in a bloody palace coup six days before U.S. forces invaded Grenada on October 25, 1983.

The movement appeared to have won less than 10 per cent of the vote in every constituency.

The NNP, formed out of three

centrist parties last August, capitalized on widespread disillusionment with Gairy, whose authoritarian government was overthrown by Bishop's New Jewel Movement in 1979, and with the subsequent left-wing revolution.

The NNP was created with strong encouragement from Washington and its allies in the English-speaking Caribbean, anxious to prevent Gairy from returning to power.

Western governments blame the repressive nature of his government for the left-wing revolution that ousted him.

Diplomatic sources said yesterday that the U.S. would like to see a withdrawal by March or April next year of several hundred U.S. and Caribbean troops stationed in the country since the invasion. However, Blaize has said he would like to see a phased withdrawal of the troops, perhaps over several years.

The new government will face immediate problems in the country's depressed economy. Income from the island's main exports, nutmeg, cocoa and bananas, has been falling steadily in recent years and unemployment has risen to over 30 per cent. Blaize has said he will emphasize the private sector in building up Grenada's economy. (Reuters, AP)

## Sakharov hunger strike to leave hospital

AMSTERDAM (AP). — Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov successfully mounted a hunger strike to force his release from a hospital in his Gorky exile, according to the Bukovski Foundation, an anti-Kremlin activist group here.

Foundation spokesman Robert van Vooren on Monday said that Sakharov was released from the hospital on September 7.

The Soviet dissident had been confined to the hospital since last May, after he staged a hunger strike seeking permission from the Soviet authorities to grant Helena Bonner, his wife, an exit visa for medical treatment in the West.

Van Vooren said that Sakharov

and his wife reportedly were being allowed some limited freedom of movement in Gorky, a city about 600 kilometres east of Moscow.

The foundation obtained the information through acquaintances of the couple, who recently received letters from Bonner.

Van Vooren also said that another Soviet dissident, biologist Sergei Kovalyov, a former Sakharov aide, was reportedly returning to Moscow after a three-year internal exile in Magadan, Siberia.

Kovalyov was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and a three-year exile in 1974, according to Van Vooren.

## Oil magnate Hammer meets Chernenko

MOSCOW (AP). — The U.S. should match the Soviet Union's pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons so "we'll all be able to sleep easy," American industrialist Armand Hammer said yesterday after meeting with Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Hammer, head of the Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp., has had ties with Soviet officials dating to a 1921 meeting with Lenin.

The oil company chief was given a statement from Chernenko to read to reporters in which the Soviet

leader said the "mercurial" nature of U.S.-Soviet relations "does not happen through any fault of ours."

Hammer said he asked Chernenko whether the Soviet Union would consider a U.S. declaration that it won't be the first to use nuclear weapons as a desirable action and whether it would improve the chances for further high-level U.S.-Soviet meetings.

Chernenko answered "yes" to both questions. Hammer said, "I think the time has come for such a proposal." Hammer said he told Chernenko.

## UK scientists poison animals without anesthesia

LONDON (Reuters). — The British government said yesterday its scientists subject animals to cyanide poisoning without anesthetics for purposes of research.

The disclosure brought an immediate outcry from Britain's active animal rights lobby.

Members of Parliament Roland Boyes said: "This is terrible. It is an affront to an animal-loving nation."

In a written statement to Parliament, the government said the experiments were carried out at Porton Down, a top secret research centre in southern England run by the Ministry of Defence.

The government said the experiments had been undertaken to improve understanding of the toxicology of cyanide poisoning and with a view to improving treatment.

## Warsaw Pact ministers end two-day parley

EAST BERLIN (Reuters). — Warsaw Pact foreign ministers yesterday ended a two-day meeting which western diplomats hope will produce clues to Soviet bloc policy on future arms consultations with the U.S.

The official East German ADN news agency said the seven ministers were received yesterday afternoon by East German Communist leader Erich Honecker.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei

Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz are due to meet in Geneva next month to discuss arms control.

Western diplomats said Gromyko probably briefed his colleagues from East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Rumania and Hungary Monday on his plans for the meeting with Shultz.

But no details of Monday's talks had been released yesterday.

## Iraqis say they hit 2nd tanker in two days

BAGHDAD (Reuters). — Iraq said its jet aircraft attacked another vessel in the Persian Gulf yesterday, south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

A military spokesman told the Iraqi news agency the "large naval target" — a term used by Iraq to denote a tanker — was "accurately hit."

The Iraqi attack, so far unconfirmed by independent sources, would be the second within 24 hours on vessels in the area close to Kharg, which Iraq has declared a war zone, barred to shipping.

The Cypriot supertanker Minotaur was hit by an Iraqi missile attack Monday in the same Gulf area south of Kharg.

Gulf shipping sources yesterday said the Minotaur was at anchor and out of immediate danger, some 60 kilometres south of Kharg. They said they believed all its 27 crew were safe and salvage experts were expected to reach the ship late yesterday.

The raid on the Minotaur ended a six-week lull in Iranian and Iraqi attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf. It was the 43rd merchant ship, and probably the largest, hit since the so-called tanker war started this year.

## 4 sentenced to die for anti-Marcos plot

MANILA (Reuters). — A military court yesterday sentenced to death three men and a woman linked with an alleged plot to assassinate Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and members of his cabinet five years ago.

Military headquarters said the four were sentenced to die in the electric chair. They had been held in a military camp since 1979.

They had been linked with an anti-government group, the Light-A-Fire Movement, which the military blamed for a rash of fires in major hotels in Manila in 1979.

A spokesman said the verdict followed five years of trial, which the defendants ignored by refusing to present counter-affidavits or witnesses.

No one has been executed in the Philippines since 1972 although several hundred people have been sentenced to death.

The authorities have said a spate of hotel fires in Manila this year in which 18 people died may have been the work of subversives or Light-A-Fire activities.

Meanwhile, in a bid to put down rumours he is dangerously ill, Marcos appeared on state television yesterday, making the sign of the cross at an altar and walking about.

## Mechanical heart man: It's fantastic

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP). — A perky William Schroeder, his condition altered from "critical" to "serious" a week after receiving a mechanical heart, has told his surgeon that he felt "like I've got 10 years to go."

"There's just no explanation other than it's fantastic," Schroeder, 52, said in an interview with Dr. William de Vries, who implanted the Jarvik-7 artificial heart. "It's pumping like everything."

He compared its sound to the clicking of "an old-time threshing machine" used in harvesting grain.

"I can breathe, I can breathe so normally," Schroeder said. "When I came in here (November 11), I had about 40 days to live and I knew that I was getting weaker and weaker and weaker. Since this operation, I feel like I've got 10 years to go right now."

Schroeder's 10-minute conversation with de Vries was videotaped at the Humana Heart Institute on Sunday night, one week after Schroeder became the second human recipient of a permanent, artificial heart.

Schroeder was regaining his appetite, but still eating soft food said Dr. Allan Lansing, the institute's medical director.

## Patient refuses blood, says he's afraid of Aids

SANTA CLARA, California (Reuters). — An injured man has refused a blood transfusion because he cannot get a guarantee the blood will be free of the disease Aids. — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, hospital officials said yesterday.

Rodney Tavares, 44, broke an arm and a leg in a motorcycle accident 10 days ago. He needs an operation, but says he will only take blood if it comes from friends or relatives.

## Sports

### Flying Maccabi

By DON GOULD

Post Basketball Reporter  
Maccabi Tel Aviv, besides gaining revenge on the only team when they scored a stunning league victory over Maccabi Haifa on Monday night, were given an excellent tune-up for Thursday evening's opening game of the European Championships against Banco Roma of Italy.

Maccabi's game glittered in every department. Defensively, they never let Haifa get off the mark. Midway through the first half, the champions had scored 40 points and allowed only 17. Their stingy man to man defence was impenetrable.

Motti Aarati and Mickey Berkovitz led as quick and accurate as fast break, as has ever been seen on these shores. Aarati was able to find Kevin Magee inside almost at will, and Magee responded with 25 points. Berkovitz and Silver seemed unable to miss from the outside, while Perry and Lussoff were pictures of consistency up front. Yoav Kadmon and Chen Lipin, the two back-up guards, were let the pace of the game slow down, when they got their chance to play. Add 6'11" Lee Johnson to the Thursday evening encounter, and it looks like Maccabi Tel Aviv are ready to fly.

On the other side of the coin, Hapoel Haifa, who host former European champs Cantu of Italy in Haifa tonight in the opening of the quarter-final round of Korac Cup play, did themselves no good when they were stopped at home by seemingly rejuvenated Hapoel Ramat Gan 104 to 97. They had had an 87 to 81 lead with only 51 minutes left in the game and couldn't hang on. Hapoel Ramat Gan were playing for the title of Israeli Super League, who, on Monday, officially severed his relationship with Hapoel Ramat Gan due to a contract dispute.

If the Israeli team can so difficult to handle, then tonight's 8.30 match against Cantu, who host the likes of Brewer, Massaro and Riva, will require a complete transformation if they want to get off to a good start in Korac Cup play.

## The old warhorse

By PAUL KOHN

Post Sports Reporter  
RAMAT GAN. — Eliezer Spiegel, the veteran coach and one time soccer great, was appointed manager last night of Hakoah Ramat Gan, the club that is propping up the National League from the 16th spot.

Spiegel replaces Yehuda Sharabani, who resigned because the club owes him \$14,000.

For Spiegel the appointment means that he is returning to the club he coached for five years and led to the league championship in 1973.

In the meanwhile, his son, Giora, another of Israel's greatest players ever, is managing Hapoel Petah Tikva, who are having a wonderful first season in the National League after gaining promotion from the Second Division at the end of last season.

## Shock for Lendl

MELBOURNE (Reuters). — South African Kevin Curren was poised to pull off one of the biggest upsets of the season when rain brought play to a halt at the Australian Open Tennis Championships yesterday.

The number nine seed, who has a habit of keeping his best form for major tournaments, was one set up and about to serve for a 3-1 lead in the second set against Ivan Lendl when the players were forced off the centre court, and rain settled in for the day.

Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova surprised third seed Pam Shriver to advance to the semi-finals of the women's tournament.

## Border's burden

SYDNEY (Reuters). — In a country where cricket carries as much interest as politics, Allan Robert Border has just taken on a job only marginally less important in the eyes of the Australian public than Prime Minister Bob Hawke's.

Border, 29, a left-handed batsman from Murrumbidgee in Sydney, was today named captain of a demoralised Australian cricket team and takes over from Kim Hughes, who departed last month in tears.

Border, "Rags" vice-captain, has played 63 Tests since 1978. He said he was aware of the burden that he believed the all-conquering king of cricket, 2-0 up in the five-test series, could be. But he admitted that he had no new ideas for the team. "I'm starting in Adelaide on Friday. I don't think we're performed as well as we can," he said. "Hopefully we'll play at our absolute best and they will drop a notch or two."

## Squash champions

By JACK LEON

Post Sports Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — Fourth-seeded Johnny Kaye, 18, won the major men's title in style at the Herzliya Squash Centre's second annual club championships, which ended on Monday night.

Kaye — the game's top junior here — upset men's national champion and No. 1 seed Neville Berman 3-1 in the semis, and then beat third-seeded Barry Omsky by the same score in the final. In the play-off for third place in the 64 draw, Berman came through 3-1 against Peter Sharrock.

Highly-promising 15-year-old Claire Levine gained the women's crown, with a 3-0 victory over Jill Segal in the final. Tami Josman blanked Iris Katz to take third place among the 12 participants.

A total of 2,000 adults and several hundred youngsters were in attendance at the eight-court Herzliya facility, which was opened two years ago, manager Mary Elshora reported yesterday. This figure represents about half of all the country's squash players.

The club had no less than seven entries in the Israel Squash Rackets Association's 12-team league competition, and all but two of them had won both their matches to date in the 1984/85 season.

The Herzliya club, together with the recently opened Haifa Squash Centre, recently brought over South African provincial squash player and coach David Sherriff, 21, on a three-month coaching assignment at the two facilities.

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## Dear Mr Holmes

By LEA LEVAVI / Jerusalem Post Reporter

SHERLOCK HOLMES is very much alive, and, at 130 is living in retirement in the Sussex countryside – or so his secretary Sue Brown would tell you.

Brown, who spends most of her working day editing company publications for the Abbey National Building Society, devotes about 5 per cent of her work time to answering the 20 or so letters a week which come for Sherlock Holmes.

When Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created Holmes, Baker Street was much shorter than it is now and there was no number anywhere near Holmes' fictional address of 221B. About 50 years ago, however, the Abbey National building went up on a site encompassing the numbers from 218 to 231 Baker Street.

"At that time, letters for Holmes were still forwarded to Conan Doyle, but after he moved to Switzerland somebody – and unfortunately nobody here remembers whose idea it was – decided that it would be a nice public relations gesture if we handled Holmes' mail."

Brown herself has been doing the job for two years and continues to be amazed by the letters she gets. "My favourite is from a man in Kansas who insists that he saw Moriarty (Holmes' arch-enemy) in a Kansas City railway station disguised as a porter."

When the Yorkshire Ripper case was in the news, she got letters from people who said that if Holmes were only still at work, he would solve the case faster than Scotland Yard ever would.

SOME PEOPLE write in for "facts" (if such a word can be used about a fictional character) about Holmes. Was he a Freemason? What kind of tobacco did he like? Brown uses the Sherlock Holmes encyclopedia (now out of print) to answer these queries and to refer the questioner to the books in which the relevant subject is mentioned.

Children write in with "cases" for

Holmes. One class in Germany recently wrote to say that every time they have a maths lesson, and only then, there is a strange banging noise from the classroom cupboard. Another child wrote to say that his teacher had mysteriously disappeared. She had left the classroom for a moment, the pupils subsequently heard a scream and the hapless teacher was never seen again.

"I assume these stories are contrived – at least I hope the one about the disappearing teacher was," says Brown. "My standard reply in all these cases is that Holmes is too old to work and has retired to Sussex because modern London doesn't agree with him. I write that he prefers the hansom cab to the bus and tube."

SHE HAS NEVER received any mail from Israel. "Maybe you Israelis are all too sensible," she has received a few letters from the Arab world, including one from a man in Saudi Arabia who wanted to know more about Holmes' travels in the Middle East, mentioned in passing in one of the books.

If, occasionally happens, a child writes in to ask if Holmes was a real person or a fictional character, Brown answers truthfully. "I think the others who write to Holmes, both children and adults, know very well that he is fictional and are just curious to see what sort of reply they will get."

"It's interesting that nobody ever writes back a second time and tries to establish a correspondence. I had thought they would. Apparently, once their curiosity is satisfied, they are happy – or maybe they are disappointed to get an answer from a mere secretary."

In view of the very limited range of possible responses to these letters, doesn't Brown sometimes get bored with the job?

"No. It's fun. Besides, it's a fantastic icebreaker at parties when people ask me what I do and I tell them I'm secretary to Sherlock Holmes."

## Looking into the Jewish future

By GREER FAY CASHMAN / Jerusalem Post Reporter

A JEWISH physician living in France predicts that in 50 years the French Jewish community will dwindle from over 700,000 to less than 50,000.

This pessimistic prognosis is shared by a Harvard demographer, who believes that the Jewish community in the United States in 100 years time will suffer a drastic decline, reducing its ranks from six million to one million.

In both cases, the premise on which the projections are based is not aliyah but assimilation.

Some Jewish thinkers argue that the establishment of the State of Israel, rather than creating a safe haven for Jews afflicted by discrimination and oppression, has induced a sense of dangerous complacency which, more than any other physical enemy, now threatens the very existence of the Jewish people.

Former Education Minister Zevulun Hammer speaks in terms of "a cultural and spiritual holocaust," while President Chaim Herzog warns that every hour, 10 Jews turn their backs on their heritage.

IN THE JEWISH WORLD, it is being asked whether the continued existence of the State of Israel might spell the doom of Diaspora Jewry. Other than in strictly Orthodox quarters, there has been a lapse in the practice of Jewish customs and traditions, with Zionist ideology and activity frequently supplanting Jewish ritual. What happens then to non-practising Jews who do not identify with Zionist aspirations? They simply drop out, intermarry and disappear from the Jewish scene.

Television producer Salim Fattal has long been disturbed by these negative trends and the failure of Zionism to reach its full potential.

He perceives these as critical issues which should be given top priority by Jewish leaders. The key problem is how to make people sit up and take notice.

For starters, Fattal is exercising his own medium, having persuaded the powers-that-be at Television House to allow him to make a two-hour documentary programme, scheduled for screening this Sunday at 9:40 p.m.

Divided into two parts, the programme deals first with the Zionist motivations and identity crises of French Jewry and then moves into a symposium debating such recurrent questions as "Who is a Jew?" and "Has Zionism Gone Bankrupt?"

Fattal deliberately concentrated on French Jewry, he says, "because it is the largest Jewish community in Western Europe and too often overlooked because America is usually the focal point of programmes about Jews."

In the documentary preceding the symposium, the camera shows the

decaying ruins of once-thriving Jewish communities, lingering momentarily inside disused synagogues and over the crooked tombstones in Jewish cemeteries. At the opposite extreme, it explores the dynamics of the post-Holocaust generation of French Jewry, showing that perhaps Fattal's fears are unfounded. But as French Chief Rabbi Shmuel Sirin points out, for each example of intense identification with Jewish values, there is a counteracting case of "frightening assimilation."

HEBREW UNIVERSITY historian Professor Joshua Prawer notes that what is happening today to the Jewish people is not a unique manifestation. He cites previous eras in which Jews have converted to Christianity and Islam. He does not concur with Hammer's terminology, and says that the only Holocaust which Jews have experienced is a physical one.

The ratio of intermarriage in pre-war Germany, he recalls, was as high as 40 per cent, which is more than current overall statistics. The tragedy of the Jewish people, according to Prawer, is that "we knew how to fight to be equal, but not how to fight to be different without compromising our rights."

Howard Squadron, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, suggests that without common agreement on the definition of terms, the discussion is rather pointless. Is a Jew someone who returns to religion, someone who says he's Jewish or someone who lives in Israel? he asks. Squadron himself defines a Jew "as anyone who asserts his Jewishness."

For Professor Yehuda Blum, former Israel ambassador to the United Nations, it is not enough merely to assert one's Jewishness; one must ask what it means. Blum lays a large slice of the blame for the distancing of Jews from their roots on the State of Israel.

"In the beginning we said Jewishness means aliyah. But we have alienated people who have been forced to make a decision between coming here and not coming here."

Recalling David Ben Gurion's words at the start of statehood that Israel should be a light unto the nations, Blum adds as a rider: "Where we have erred is that we have not been a light unto the Jews."

The debate does not really provide any answers. If anything, it opens the door to further questions, adding dimensions to existing problems.

Assuming the role of prophet, author A.B. Yehoshua envisions that 150 years from now, religious Jews living in space settlements will walk around with fringes protruding from four sides of their space suits chanting "Next year in Jerusalem."

"ARABS are buying up the farmlands of Sharon," cried the headlines last week, and sinister purposes were attributed to the allegations.

The stories appeared to emanate from the Farmers Federation. Its members, owning private farming lands in the northern Sharon (around the Zichron Ya'akov-Hadera – Binyamina area), hard hit by the farming crisis, were forced by economics to sell some of their lands, the stories said.

The "eager buyers" reportedly were Arabs, who were offering "53,000 to \$4,000 per dunam", while the Jewish National Fund – whose purpose is to purchase all available land for the nation – was offering no more than \$1,500. The reports insinuated that "mysterious funding stood behind the Arab offers, implying some sort of PLO plot to buy Israel from the Israelis."

It was certainly a story interesting enough to look into, but all my efforts to uncover even a single dunam sold to Arab buyers were in vain. There were lots of rumours but no substance.

All the villages named in the stories were contacted, with the following results.

Moti Kirmeier, chairman of the Binyamina local council: "I know of no sale of land in this village to Arabs. The only 'outsider' who has purchased farming land here was the late Emma Berger," head of the German fundamentalist sect which has acquired extensive lands and properties in Binyamina and Zichron Ya'akov. Berger died last month, and Kirmeier said "sales to her sect are also in abeyance."

## The land sales that weren't

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER / Jerusalem Post Reporter

Yishai Shibovsky, Zichron council chairman: "Up till now, not a single inch of Zichron land has been sold to Arabs. I have heard that some of our Arab neighbours from Faradis and Ara villages intend to buy land, but nobody has bought any so far."

The facts are, he added, that "farming is down-in-the-dumps these days and even some of the Arabs are seeking other employment; and we want them to continue working with our farmers."

He noted that an added difficulty for the farmers was the fact that the new generation lured by high-tech were not anxious to remain farmers. Shalom Barzilai, head of the Pardes Hanna-Karkour local council: "All land deals must go through the council for approval, and so far, none has been submitted. I know of no land sales, but I've heard rumours and we're looking into them."

FROM THE local council of Givat Ada, another village named in the reports, I was told: "There have been no land sales to Arabs here."

A veteran citrus farmer from Pardes Hanna also told me that he had

heard of no such sales – and among farmers news travels fast.

It therefore remained only to ask the Farmers Federation itself. The federation represents private farmers. Its director, Shlomo Reisman, who was quoted as a source for the original reports, told me that the matter was receiving "intensive and hopefully constructive" attention and referred me to their president, Eliyahu Izakson, for details of actual sales.

Izakson could not pinpoint any, but referred me to one of their leading members in Hadera, whom I was unable to reach.

"We know that our farmers are in a terrible condition. Government policies have resulted in a great crisis in agriculture. This has put many of our members under pressure to sell their lands, and the Arabs are offering the best prices," Izakson said.

He conceded that Jewish buyers too were making offers, "but much lower ones."

TO DEAL with the situation he had personally appealed to the JNF chairman, Moshe Rivlin, for vigorous

action. The JNF has a Trust Fund "Himanuta" which is engaged in buying land for the nation, and it had made offers in the Sharon too.

(The Himanuta fund was established about 15 years ago to forestall land sales to Emma Berger. A JNF spokesman said that the fund bought several plots of land during the past year from Sharon farmers who had run into debt. In every case, the price was arrived at after negotiation, and only plots of land but no whole farms were put up for sale in order to raise cash.)

"Our members won't insist on every last shekel, but they want a reasonable price," Izakson said. But the Himanuta offers were far lower.

In addition there were also some farmers interested in buying land that was up for sale, particularly as an investment in the future, since at the moment, they could expect no profit from working it.

The vineyards and citrus groves that make up a large proportion of the Sharon farming have been particularly hard hit by the farming crisis: "They are in the worst position since the Second World War," Izakson said.

Could he explain why the Arabs should be so interested in buying up land in the Sharon, rather than elsewhere in the country?

"Well, it's a mixed area with Arab villages close to the Jewish villages." Also, of course, Arab villagers work for Jewish farmers on their land and every farmer dreams of owning the land he works, he said.

But in Izakson's opinion there would be a "significant difference" if

the Arabs who help work Jewish lands would own them.

"As I see it, taking root in the land as farmers is the greatest and most important achievement of the Zionist endeavour."

"If Jewish farmers – and in the Sharon they are already the grandsons of the original settlers – sell their lands to Arab owners then that is an admission of failure. This is a crisis we must eliminate," he stressed.

While he did not know the motivation of the Arabs who offer high prices for land, he suspected that there "may be" some political motives too. Asked how the Arabs expect to make a profit from lands their Jewish neighbours are losing on, Izakson said, "They have lower expenses – and not only because all the family joins in the farm work, which our farmers do too."


THERE ARE other opinions on the matter as well. One of them holds that in their effort to get a more sympathetic hearing from the government, and especially prompt financial assistance, the farmers are raising the bogey of "Jewish land being bought up by Arabs" to galvanize the bureaucracy into action.

Another opinion suggests it is "no coincidence" that it is the Sharon farmers who are engaged in land deals with Arabs – even if only in the rumour stage. They note that Emma Berger too found these veterans – who have grown rich on their lands – amenable to cash offers and not very choosy about to whom they sell the land – as long as the price is right.


The Jerusalem Post

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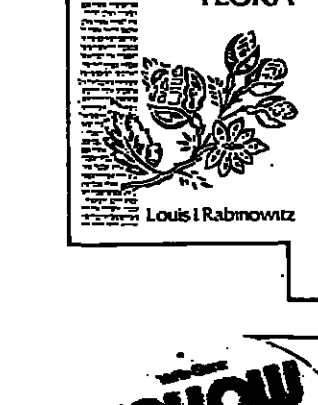


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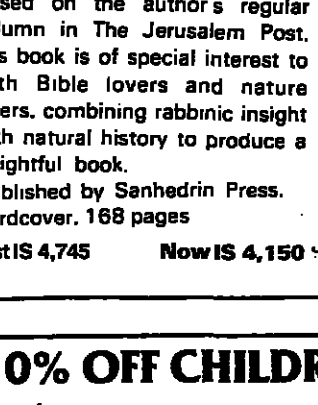


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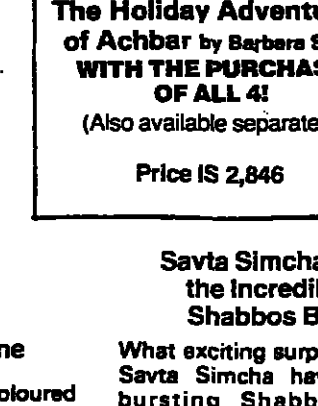
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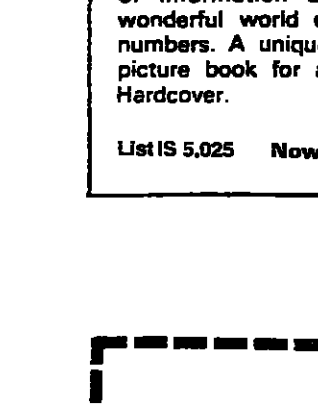
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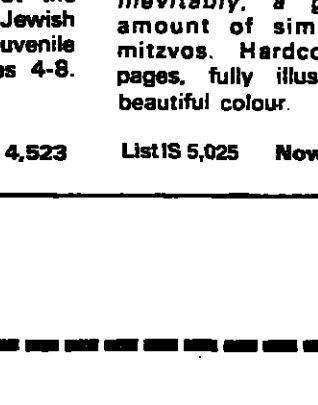
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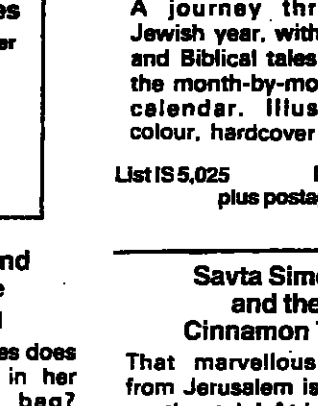
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JPL/101/50



How the manufacturers fare under the package deal

## It's tough to hold the '527' line

By MACABEE DEAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The industrialists say they are taking a beating holding the "527 line," and their predicament is slowly getting worse.

"We still think the package deal was a step in the right direction, although now and then some of us are grinding our teeth," says Eli Laniado, spokesman for the Manufacturers Association.

The "527 line" refers to the dollar-shekel exchange rate at which prices were frozen when the package deal took effect one month ago. (527 equals \$1.)

But although the price of goods has been frozen at this rate, the cost of imported raw materials has risen considerably. The increase is about 11 per cent by now, since the devaluation of the shekel is continuing, even if the pace is slower than in former months.

Moreover, although interest rates have indeed been lowered, they are still higher than the index," Laniado said, adding that recently a delegation of industrialists met with Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, who promised to see what could be done to lower the rates further. His answer is expected before the end of the week, perhaps even today.

The industrialists are being hard

hit from another quarter, sales are dropping, especially those of processed foods, leather goods, electrical appliances and cosmetics. Some factories report that their sales are down by 20 per cent in the past month; a few claim drops of up to 40 per cent.

"The situation is expected to deteriorate further, for there is a distinct tendency for consumers to hold off buying. One reason for this is that their shekels are becoming less valuable day by day, because the shekel is being devalued while goods are being sold at the same price. If the price freeze holds, those who have ready cash will prefer to wait until shortly before the package deal ends, early in February, to do their shopping."

Moreover, there has been a real pay cut in the past month, leaving less disposable income around to buy articles which now appear to be almost a luxury — although a few months ago they seemed to be a necessity.

And to compound the problems of the industrialists in selling their goods to wholesalers and to retail outlets, there is talk of increasing the VAT from 15 per cent to 17 or even 18 per cent. This will also reduce the amount of disposable income around.

"We still hope that exports will pick up. This will enable us to increase production. But so far, this has not happened," Laniado said.

The squeeze due to falling local sales and static exports also means that "any hopes that civil servants about to be dismissed might be retrained for industry are practically nonexistent."

Several industrialists have reported dismissing workers. "But so far, these dismissals are on a small scale. We have received absolutely no reports of any mass dismissals, nor of any such plans."

Nevertheless, the Manufacturers Association is closely watching several plants, which seem to be in financial straits. The association considers what steps may have to be taken to tide them over the next few months.

"If the situation gets worse, we may have to appeal to the Special Committee (va'adat ma'akav) headed by Dr. Emanuel Sharon, director-general of the Finance Ministry, and ask him to allow some industrialists to raise their prices. This will be done within the framework of the package deal, which was never intended to force any viable plant into closing down," Laniado said.



Twenty Israel Radio staffers yesterday took part in a special series of broadcasts on unemployment. As part of the series Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav (at right) reiterated the government promise not to try and cure the economy by means of unemployment. Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar is at left. (Ne'man)

## Swiss banks say that taxes make them uncompetitive

ZURICH (Reuters). — Swiss banks, which survived an attempt to curb their cherished secrecy laws last year, are lobbying for a change in the tax system to prevent what they say is a loss of business to other financial centres.

Most major banks predict another set of record profits for 1984, but bankers argue business is being increasingly attracted to foreign centres which have liberalized tax laws and eased financial regulations.

Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) opened the campaign when it announced plans to buy the London brokerage house Phillips & Drew. UBS president Niklaus Senn referred then to "a significant decline of the competitiveness of Switzerland."

He said some withholding taxes of securities business were being abolished in West Germany and the U.S., at 35 per cent, was the highest in the world. A "warning signal for Bern" was how one prominent Zurich newspaper led its editorial on the Phillips & Drew move.

Bankers have also attacked a stamp duty on securities trading, which they say makes it almost impossible for Switzerland to develop a sophisticated short-term money market.

This market, particularly active in the U.S. and Britain, offers companies the possibility of raising money for short periods by issuing securities.

The president of the Swiss National Bank, Fritz Leutwiler, has warned bankers against trying to make political capital out of the defeat in May 1983 of a referendum asking approval for curbs on banking secrecy.

Leutwiler told a recent news conference the Swiss Finance Ministry could not be expected to bear the loss of income involved in abolishing the withholding tax, which is imposed on interest gains from domestic bonds.

The finance ministry says Bern earns the equivalent of \$560 million a year from the tax. This compares with only \$66m. from a similar tax West Germany is planning to abolish.

There are good chances, however, that changes in stamp duty, could be on the way, Swiss Finance Minister Otto Stich acknowledges that the stamp duty is hampering business in the short-term money market.

Bankers say abolishing or modifying the stamp duty may not cut overall government tax revenue, since any reduction in the duty could be offset by greater revenue from income tax from a more active market.

Stich doubts that UBS bought Phillips & Drew because of Swiss taxes. "UBS simply saw an opportunity to increase its power abroad," he told Reuters.

## WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at \$2415 per line including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs \$48,300 per line, including VAT, per month.

### JERUSALEM

**MUSEUMS**  
Israel Museum Exhibitions: Photography, exhibition for children including demonstration corners (Paley Center, near Rockefeller Museum). The Armand Hammer Collection. Two centuries of masterpieces. Meet the Israeli Artist (Wed. 10.30-12). Artists present in gallery. Zigi Ben Haim, sculptures and assemblages. Moshe Kupferman, Paintings. Works on Paper. David Tarkenton, Produce of Israel. Permanent collection of Judaica, Art and Archaeology. Rockefeller Museum: Egypt, the other side of the River — nursery objects. Ticho House, works by Anna Ticho, Hanukkah lamps, library and garden cafe. Viewing hours: Main Museum: 10-5. At 11: Guided tour in English, 3.30. Children's film, "The Fox and the Hound," 8.30. Lecture (in English), "American Art" with Dr. Ayelet Shefer.

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**HEBREW UNIVERSITY**  
1. Tours in English at 9 and 11 a.m. from Administration Building, Givat Ram Campus. Buses 9 and 28.  
2. Mount Scopus tours 11 a.m. from the Brodman Reception Centre, Sherman Building, Buses 9 and 28 to last stop. Further details: Tel. 02-882819.

**AMIT WOMEN** (formerly American Mirachi Women). Free Morning Tours — 8 Alkalai Street, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-499222.

### Tel Aviv

**MUSEUMS**  
Tel Aviv Museum. Exhibitions: Design for Disabled Persons. Zaritsky, A Retrospective. Art of Sardinia until the end of the Nuraghi period. Collections — 20th Century Art: Selection of Israeli Art. Helena Rubinstein Pavilion: Dennis Oppenheim: Factories, Fireworks, 1979-84, machine-like assemblages. Viewing hours: Tel Aviv Museum: Sun.-Thur. 10-5; Fri. closed. Sat. 11-2; 7-10. Helena Rubinstein Pavilion: Sun.-Thur. 10-11.5; Fri. closed. Sat. 11-2.

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WIZO: To visit our projects call Tel Aviv. 02-5399; Jerusalem, 02-6004; Haifa, 03-5357.  
FIONA WOMEN — NA'AMAT. Morning tours. Call reservations: Tel Aviv, 02-6006.

### Haifa

Christmas Concert by Jerusalem Madrigal Singers in Elia Church (45 Meir St.) Sat., Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.  
What's On in Haifa, dial 04-640640.

## Wrong oil price forecasts led to \$500 billion mistake

HOUSTON (AP). — The \$500 billion invested around the world in 1980 and 1981 on the assumption that oil prices would continue to rise will "add up to one of the most expensive business errors ever," according to a study released this week.

Furthermore, the worldwide study by Arthur Andersen and Co., an accounting firm, and Cambridge Energy Research Associates, an energy consulting service, concluded that the oil industry is so turbulent that future oil prices cannot be accurately predicted. But that has not deterred the forecasters who were surveyed by the two organizations from arriving at a "strong consensus" that oil prices would drift downward into the late 1980s or early 1990s and then rise at a modest rate.

"It's striking to think about this consensus today in light of the fact that it was equally strong in the past and each of those predictions was proved to be substantially wrong," said Richard Adkerson, director of oil and gas industry services for

Arthur Andersen.

In the explosion in oil prices in the 1970s, the price of benchmark oil sold by Opec, Arabian Light Crude, soared from \$2.75 a barrel in 1973 to \$34 in 1981. As the 1980s began, analysts were proclaiming prices would continue their one-way surge higher.

But as high prices led consumers to switch to other fuels and take conservation measures, and as a worldwide economic slowdown set in during the early 1980s, an oil glut emerged. Opec cut its price of Arabian Light to \$29 in 1983 and is currently struggling to avert another price reduction.

Adkerson said the inability to forecast oil prices was responsible for "substantial and unprofitable" investments of more than a half-trillion dollars in 1980 and 1981 alone, just before the oil boom subsided. As a result loans to energy companies in which oil reserves were pledged as collateral, have turned into problem loans that sent shocks through the banking industry when oil prices changed course.

## Japanese trade delegation in Malta

VALLETTA (Reuters). — An 18-member trade delegation began talks with Maltese officials here yesterday that political sources said could lead to the lifting of a two-year-old Maltese ban on imports from Japan.

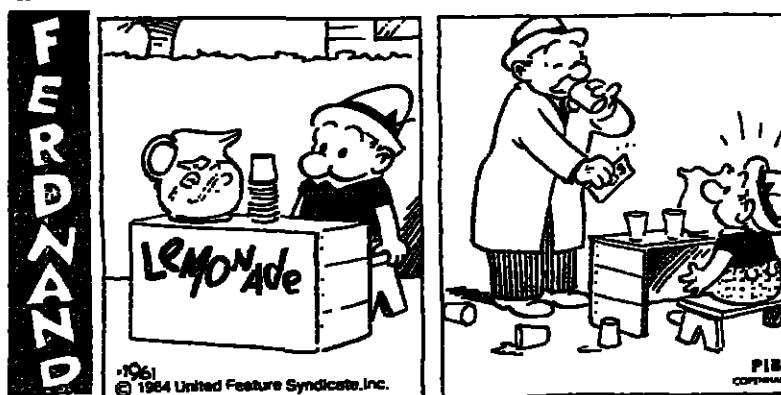
Malta, which used to import cars, canned food and a variety of electronic goods from Japan, banned the products in 1982 because of an unfavourable trade balance.

Maltese officials said it was impossible to import goods worth millions of lira from Japan while Japan imported virtually nothing from Malta.

## Canada gives projects grant to Egypt

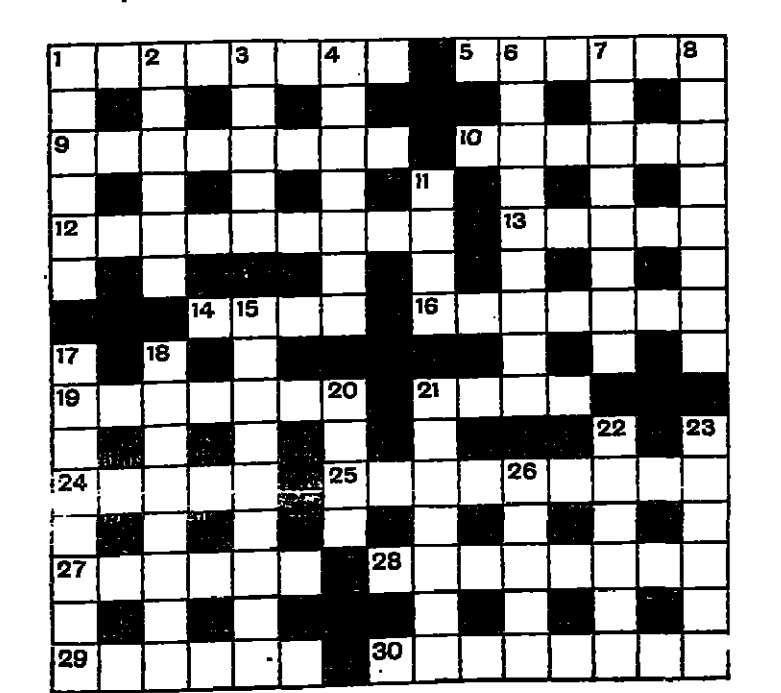
CAIRO (Reuters). — Canada has granted Egypt \$20.197 million Canadian dollars (about U.S. \$26.75m.) to help finance four energy, agriculture and water supply projects, the Canadian embassy here has announced.

Agreement on the grant was signed last week by Canadian Ambassador John Schioler



## ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 &amp; 5 A set of clubs—but not for golfing! (8, 9)</p> <p>9 A service that comes rather late in the day (8)</p> <p>10 The way a chemist puts his foot down when angry? (6)</p> <p>12 Fruit tart baked for a Hanoverian queen (9)</p> <p>13 Communal home whose inmates are devoted to order (5)</p> <p>14 Pieces of harness (4)</p> <p>16 Playthings up to now unsurpassed? (7)</p> <p>19 We take heart anew when it changes for the better? (7)</p> <p>21 Chance decision the matador won't want to take (4)</p> <p>24 West Africa's most important currency (5)</p> <p>25 Happen to make a successful investment? (4, 5)</p> <p>27 Demands and gets satisfaction out of religious work? (6)</p> <p>28 Game outcome of putting two and two together (8)</p> <p>29 Fast-moving Scottish river entered by newspaper chief (6)</p> <p>30 Behind the scenes at Goofy's (7)</p> | <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 &amp; 18 Sort of speech one would expect to hear in 26 (6, 6)</p> <p>2 Musical treats from Pesaro, maybe (6)</p> <p>3 The boy in the herbalist's shop? (5)</p> <p>4 For anyone with a sore throat it takes some licking (7)</p> <p>6 Weaves a spell indoors? (9)</p> <p>7 Plucky flier in danger of being shot down (4,4)</p> <p>8 A fellow who tries his hand at belles-lettres? (8)</p> <p>11 Cause of apprehension in Far East (4)</p> <p>15 In 3-D I somehow succeeded (9)</p> <p>17 Ladies' doubles matches? (4,4)</p> <p>18 See 1 down</p> <p>20 A hill-climbing roster (4)</p> <p>21 A burlesque prelude to fight (4,5)</p> <p>22 Go and walk in slippers round a sacred building in the East (6)</p> <p>23 Eliminate a hindrance in a river? (6)</p> <p>26 Is below the norm for (6,6,6,6) (5)</p> |
|---|--|



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### DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (pediatrics), Hadassah E.K. (internal, gynecology, ophthalmology, E.N.T.), Hadassah M.S. (surgery, orthopedics). Tel Aviv: Rokeach (pediatrics, internal, surgery), Netanya: Laniado (obstetrics, internal, pediatrics, gynecology, surgery).

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## Israeli shippers get half of Argentine meat contract

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The government decision to grant the local Mano shipping company half the contract for carrying 55,000 tons of frozen meat from the Argentine to Israel over the next two years was described as "Solomonic in its wisdom" yesterday.

But company executive Paul Biro told The Jerusalem Post "now we'll have to check whether it can be carried out."

He said Mano would discuss with the Argentine national shipping company, Elma, which is to get the other half of the contract, the possibility of working out a suitable agreement.

If agreement can be reached, Mano will purchase a 15-year-old Finnish refrigeration ship on which it has an option.

The ship, reported to cost \$1.5 million, can carry 4,000 tons of meat, double the quantity stipulated under the contract for the six sailings a year.

She is to be manned by a crew of 26, with all the officers Israeli, but

about half the ratings foreigners — to cut costs. The Ratings Union has agreed to the mixed crew, and the complement comes well within the government's requirement for at least 50 per cent Israeli crews on ships carrying government cargo.

The half-and-half decision was taken on Monday by the Ministers of Transport, Finance and Industry. It is the Industry and Trade Ministry which imports the meat.

The ministry will pay Mano \$165 a ton, \$15 below Mano's original demand, but still more than the \$150 charged by Elma. The Argentine national line, however, enjoys a \$50 a ton subsidy from its government.

Biro said that for the contract to be profitable the ship would need extra cargoes. The Agrexco company has already promised farm cargoes from Haifa to Marseilles for two sailings during the export season.

On the return trip to Israel Mano hopes to get a considerable share of the 6,000 tons of citrus concentrates Israel imports annually from Brazil, and of the privately imported frozen meat from the Argentine.

## South Asian airlines want share of market

KARACHI (Reuters). — South Asia's first regional conference on aviation yesterday accused major airlines of monopolizing the world's air routes.

"They do this without consideration of the repercussions on smaller airlines," Wajir Azim, managing director of the state-run Pakistan International Airlines said at the opening of the three-day conference.

Aviation sources said the conference, organized by the seven-nation South Asia regional cooperation forum, was likely to adopt a regional

aviation policy to protect the airlines' interests.

Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are attending, while Bhutan is absent.

"The giants...are increasingly in a position, partly due to their size and economic well-being and partly due to their cooperative agreements, to monopolize the world's air routes," Azim said.

He added that the advantages of cheap labour were wiped out by increases in the cost of new equipment resulting in a "financial squeeze year after year."

## ENTERTAINMENT

### TELEVISION

**EDUCATIONAL:**  
8.15 School Broadcasts 15.00 Surprise Train 15.20 Don Quixote (part 1) 16.00 Rikva Apsara 16.30 Agriculture film Schubert: Trio op.99 (Contra, Tailcoat, Casals, recorded in 1926)  
20.30 Portrait of Tzvi Tzvi Wunderlich 23.00 Mendelssohn: Trio op.49 (Beaux Arts); Brahms: String Quartet op.51, No.1 (Lassie)

### First Programme

6.03 Programmes for Olim  
7.30 Morning Concert (from Voice of Music)  
9.30 Encounter — live family and social affairs magazine  
10.30 Programme in Easy Hebrew  
11.10 School Broadcasts  
11.30 Education for all  
12.05 Sephardi songs  
13.00 News in English  
13.30 News in French  
14.00 Children's programmes  
15.55 Notes on a New Book  
16.05 Programme for Senior Citizens  
17.12 Jewish Ideas  
17.20 Everyman's University: Political Science  
18.06 Afternoon Classics  
18.07 Bible Reading  
19.05 Lesson in Halacha  
19.30 Programmes for Olim  
22.05 A Friend from the Same Planet

### Second Programme

6.12 Gymnastics  
6.30 Editorial Review  
6.53 Green Light — drivers' corner  
7.30 This Morning — news magazine  
8.05 Sabi Journey  
9.05 House Call — with Rivka Michaeli  
10.10 All Shades of the Rainbow — morning magazine  
12.10 Open Line — news and music  
13.00 Midday — news commentary, music  
14.05 Masters of Literature — with Gali Gazi  
15.05 Magic Moments — favourite old songs  
16.10 Safe Journey  
17.10 Economics Magazine  
18.02 Music Today in the Knesset  
18.05 Today in Sport  
19.05 Today — radio newsweek  
19.30 The Jewish People  
20.05 Folklore Magazine  
21.15 Song for the Road  
22.05 Songs and Screens  
23.05 Night Games

### On the Air

**Voice of Music**  
6.02 Musical Clock  
7.07 Iber: Diversissement: Saint-Seens: Romance  
7.30 Offenbach: Orpheus in the Underworld; Overture; Haydn: Symphony No.102; Bizet: Roma  
9.30 Haydn: String Quartet op.71, No.1 (Amadeus); Tchaikovsky: Fantasy-Concertante for Piano & Orchestra; Brahms: Symphony No.2 (Concertgebouw/Fairbank) Barok: Violin Concerto No.2 (Perelman-London, Symphony); Brahms: Hungarian Dances  
12.00 Beethoven: 12 Minutes: Grieg, Sigurd Jorsvald; Berlioz: Song; Elgar: Gramia and Dances; Op.42; De Falla: The Three Corners; Fritz Kreisler: Oriental Dances; Ginastera: 3 Argentinian Dances; Korngold: Much Ado About Nothing  
14.06 Hermann Baumann, horn, Vivaldi: Concerto for 2 Horns; Mozart: Horn Quintet, K.407; Mozart: Horn Concerto No.3  
15.00 The Oriental Violin and Ways to play it (Haim Tzur)  
15.30 Youth Programme  
16.30 Debussy: Le martyre de St. Sebastien (Vienna Symphony, Vienna Youth Choir, conductor: George Preter; with Soula Gazarian, Christa Ludwig, Rita Buhlen)

### Army

6.10 Morning Sounds  
Tel Aviv: Variety on the Air  
7.07-7.07 — with Alex Anski  
8.05 Morning Newsweek  
9.05 Right Now — with Shmuel Nchushan  
11.05 Israeli Autumn — with Eli Yisraeli  
13.00 Music Today in the Knesset  
15.05 Time Out  
16.05 Four in the Afternoon  
18.05 IDF Magazine  
19.05 Music Today — with Orly Yaniv  
20.05 Foreign Language Hit Parade  
21.00 Mabai — TV Newsweek  
23.00 University on the Air  
23.05 Popular songs  
00.05 Children Bring Happiness (repeat)  
00.05 Night Birds — songs, chat

### CINEMAS

**JERUSALEM 4, 7, 9**  
Eden: Red Dawn; Edith: Woman in Red; Eshkol: Up the Creek; Kfir: Splash; Michal: Anna 7; Orly: Paris-Texas 4, 6, 30, 9; Orion: Ghost Busters; Orion: Ram and Glory; Ron: Beyond the Walls; Sander: Another Time Another Place 7.15, 9.15; Binyamin: Et tu, Secret 7, 9; Cinema One: Triple feature/1 ticket: Police Academy 6; Beat Street 7.45; Class 9.30; Beit Agur: Gregory's Girl 5, 7, 9; Cinema 2: Marco Polo (part D) 7 (small hall); The Chosen 7; Montparnasse 19 at 9; Israel Museum: The Fox and the Hound 3.30

**HAIFA 4, 6, 45, 9**  
Amphitheatre: Ninja 11; Armon: Ghost Busters; Armon: The Challenge; Beit: Beyond the Walls; Beit: Caddy 7; Beit: Agur: Gregory's Girl 5, 7, 9; Beit: Marco Polo (part D) 7 (small hall); The Chosen 7; Montparnasse 19 at 9; Israel Museum: The Fox and the Hound 3.30

**RAMAT GAN**  
Armon: Ram and Glory 7.15, 9.30; Di-amond Peddler 4.30; Lily: Woman in Red 7.15, 9.30; Oasis: Ghost Busters 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Orion: Ram and Glory 7.15, 9.30; Ramat Gan: The Challenge 7.15, 9.30

**HERZLIYA**  
David: La Traviata 7.15, 9.30; King of the Beasts 4.30; Eshkol: Maria's Lovers 7.15, 9.30; Tiber: Beyond the Walls 7.15, 9.15 (Sun., Mon. also 4.30)

**HOLON**  
Migdal: Ram and glory 7.15, 9.30; Savoy: Woman in Red 7.15, 9.30; Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom 4.30

**BAT YAM**  
Armon: Red Dawn 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

03/10/150



## Gold price may drop to \$300 according to Swiss bankers

ZURICH (Reuters). — Gold is losing its 24-carat appeal to investors looking for a hedge against inflation, and the price on the world bullion markets could drop to \$300 an ounce over the next three months, Swiss bankers said yesterday.

A Reuters poll of four leading Swiss banks dealing in gold revealed that the gold price could fall below its mid-1982 low of \$290 — a level last seen previously in 1980, when prices were rising.

The metal is currently trading at just over \$330, after recovering from last week's 2½ year low of around \$328.

Investor interest has been depressed by the strength of the dollar — which unlike gold earns interest — by fewer fears about inflation, falling commodity prices and weak industrial demand.

But Credit Suisse chief economist Hans Mast was more optimistic about gold's longer-term prospects. Over six to 12 months, he said, the risk of the gold price falling was less than the chances of it improving from current levels.

With inflation falling in most major countries, gold is no longer attractive as a hedge against inflation, Surber added.

Mathis Caballavetta, manager of the bullion and foreign exchange department at Union Bank of Switzerland, said downward price pressure was considerable and could intensify if the U.S. economic slowdown turns into a recession.

Swiss Bank Corp. chief gold analyst Hans Winteler said a gold price fall below \$300, while not ruled out, was unlikely. But he added there was little potential for a gold price recovery unless the dollar fell sharply or inflation flared up again.

Union Bank's Caballavetta noted that the gold price is no longer reacting to news of political crises.

Some investors were frightened off last year when the gold price slumped \$100 in February. Its lackluster performance since then has failed to attract them back, the bankers said.

Industrial demand for gold has failed to rise in step with a recovery in the world economy this year. South Africa, the world's largest producer, has faced mounting financial problems and has stepped up gold sales, which account for half its foreign exchange earnings.

Arab investors no longer have huge petrodollar profits to invest as they did in 1980, when the gold price soared to over \$800 an ounce.

Gold's upward potential, after an expected price fall, was described as limited by all four bankers. None saw a good chance of a rise beyond \$400 in the next few months.

## Wine dispute resolved

DUBLIN (AP). — Leaders of the European Common Market countries resolved a long-running dispute over wine production yesterday. Irish government spokesman Peter Prendergast said.

The agreement on the second and final day of a West European summit conference in the Irish capital cleared the way for resumption of negotiations on terms of Common Market membership for Spain and Portugal.

Conference sources said the wine agreement included a complex series of measures aimed mainly at reducing an expanding wine surplus.

Among the measures is a plan that would force the Common Market's wine-growing member countries — under certain circumstances — to distill part of their production into industrial-use alcohol. This would reduce the supply of wine available for human consumption and export.

## Excitement of Telecom sale tails off

LONDON (AP). — Prices slumped on the London Stock Exchange yesterday in the aftermath of the much-ballyhooed opening of trade in British Telecom shares.

Leading issues ranged mostly 2 to 6 pence lower, but some items were untraded and a few were steady or 1 to 5 pence higher near the close.

The major market indices opened slightly higher, but drifted downward through the day. Analysts said the excitement created by Monday's commencement of British Telecom trade — the culmination of history's biggest stock offer — had tailed off.

British Government bonds retreated by between 3/16 and 5/8. The major oil companies declined by 2 to 7 pence in a very quiet session.

Among mining stocks, main list gold items gained 25 to 75 cents and in some places as much as a dollar.

The top banks came off highs, but were still 3 to 8 pence firmer, except for unchanged Lloyd's.

Two big companies reported better earnings but their shares went down. GEC announced a half-yearly pretax profit of £332 million (\$339m). Its shares fell 6 pence, however, to 226. And Trafalgar House reported pretax figures for the year at £113.2m (\$136m). The share price slithered 9 to 311 pence.

Trading in Telecom shares set a record volume on the New York Stock Exchange Monday, with the price about 84 cent above the partly-paid initial offer price.

## LONDON BANK RATES

	prev.	close
Bank base rate	9 1/2	9 1/2
Call money	9 1/2	9 1/2
91-day treasury	9 1/4	9 1/4
3-months interbank	9 1/4	9 1/4

Lloyds Bank International

## MARKET STATISTICS

Indices			
General Share Index	633.11	+0.44%	
Non-bank index	751.37	-1.91%	
Arrangement Index	751.37	-0.16%	
Industrial	529.93	+1.47%	
Bond Index	503.19	+0.71	

Turnovers			
Share	151,563.6m		
Bonds	15,541.0m		
Non-bank	15,304.6m		
Totals	172,409.2m		
Advances	273		
Declines	67		
of which 5% +	99		
of which 5% -	27		
"Buyers only"	5		
"Sellers only"	5		

Bond market trends			
3% fully-linked	Mixed to 3.5%		
80% linked	Rises of 0.5-3.5%		
90% linked	Mixed to 2%		
Double option	Mixed to 3.5%		
Dollar-linked	Mixed to 2%		

Most Active Shares			
Hapag-Lloyd	16,250	1587.1m	n.c.
Leumi	10,330	15152.5m	-70
IDB	2,810	15181.6m	n.c.

## Shares continue consolidation

### MARKET COMMENT

By PINHAS LANDAU

TEL AVIV. — Share trading turned much quieter yesterday, as the market continued to "cool off" after the sharp gains of the previous days. Volume fell back to some 151.5 billion. In the bond market, prices once again moved generally higher, maintaining their unspectacular but steady gaining trend.

The pattern on the share market appears to be one of general consolidation. Insofar as the gains registered at the end of last week and the beginning of this did not bring a major wave of profit-taking to erode the advance, this can be seen as a positive development. On the other hand, it might be argued that, unless the surge in prices succeeds in creating more interest, which would express itself in much larger trading volumes, a few days' rises do not amount to very much.

A third argument put forward swings back to the positive approach. People are unlikely to join the market on a significant scale until an upward move of several weeks has taken place, with prices moving far above their previously-depressed levels. Such a move cannot involve non-stop advances, and therefore a pattern of jump and hold, jump and hold, is about the best thing that could emerge at this time.

In short, "you pay your money and takes your choice" — or don't pay, as the case may be. What will be of interest over the coming week or two will be to see if more money flows out of *patam* and other dollar-linked accounts and investment vehicles, and how much of that is directed to the stock market.

In the background, the bond market continues to show quiet but solid progress. Gains of between 1/2 and 3/4 of a percent each day are not dramatic, but their accumulation makes them more impressive. There remains the matter of the contradiction between rises in index-linked bonds, which presage continuing inflation, and rises in shares which would indicate falling inflation. Given the low prices in both markets that continue to reign, despite the recent rises, this "problem" can probably be easily explained away. In fact, in view of the huge amounts of money available for investment, and the very small amount actually involved in trading, there is ample room for gains all round.

Volume in bonds actually rose yesterday, from IS2,277 million to IS2,641m. The General Bond Index crossed the 500 mark, indicating a 400 per cent rise since the beginning of the year. Assuming a 15 per cent rate of inflation for November, this index is now in line with the total rate of inflation in the first 11 months of 1984. However, even this is not exact, since November's index measures average November prices and we are now well into December. Nevertheless, the bond index is steadily catching up with where it is "supposed" to be.

Shares were more mixed yesterday than on previous days, with the "arrangement" sector actually falling in price fractionally. Elsewhere, gains predominated and the overall advance: decline index showed a 4:1 ratio of advancing issues. This is certainly very good, but represents a further decline, compared to 6:1 on Monday.

Sharp gainers outnumbered sharp losers by 9:2, but "buyers only" situations increased to 27, from 14 on Monday. Unchanged issues numbered 163, another sign of a stabilizing market.

Certain individual issues made massive gains, after being marked "buyers only" on both Sunday and Monday. Thus Technological Resources jumped 30 per cent, completing a more than 100 per cent rise since the share bottomed out, after reopening for trading last month following a prolonged trading halt. Reports have suggested that the company may be acquired by Clal as part of its purchase of the Ararat insurance company, which had at one time been a purchase target of the Resources group.

Other major gainers were T.G.L. IS1 shares (up 31 per cent). Oz investments IS0.1 (25.1 per cent), and Lumir IS1 (24.3 per cent).

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange daily price quotations

Company	Price	Volume	% change	Company	Price	Volume	% change	Company	Price	Volume	% change	Company	Price	Volume	% change	
Commercial Banks																
(not part of "arrangement")																
OHF	896	124	+7.6	GalZohar 1	3182	8	+5	Assa	6120	25	+2.0	Gal Ind 1	2064	44	+5.1	
Martime 1	2739	417	n.c.	GalZohar 5	801	12	n.c.	Angerl	970	320	-3.9	Gal Ind 5	800	324	+0.6	
Martime 5	760	299	n.c.	DanHotel 1	715	266	+2.1	Shemen p	1320	57	-3.9	Dexter	795	110	n.c.	
Gen non-arr	5544	86	+10	DanHotel 5	397	485	+5.9					Ferri 0.1	5050	19	-8.2	
N. Amer. 1	3195	74	+1.7	Coral Beach	484	296	+10					Ferri 0.5	1880	295	+4.7	
N. Amer. 5	1916	65	-1.1	Knesset	550	10	n.c.					GenChem	1280	22	n.c.	
N. Am. op 1	3789	64	n.c.	Yarden Hotel	1045	56	+10	Adgar	640	28	+2.2	Teva op 4	4700	13	+2.0	
Danco 1	690	690	n.c.	Yarden Hotel 5	594	20	+19	Ofis	320	30	+7.4	Lipkity	380	50	-5.0	
Danco 2	318	30	n.c.	Yahalom	220	480	+4.9	Baruch 1	780	2	b.o.i.	7675	671	n.c.		
Finland 5	850	1669	+6	Yahalom op	287	280	n.c.	Baruch 5	358	130	+9.1	Petrochem	717	1544	n.c.	
FBI	787	5042	+3					Baruch op	111	774	+19.4	Maximo 1	640	25	+6.7	
Hotels, Tourism																
IDB R	23610	762	n.c.	Computers				Alkana			no trading	Maxima 30	100	+5.4		
IDB B	25350	4	+1.4	Data	588	35	+3.5	Yahalom 5	630	2570	+5.2	Maxima op	368	89	+4.9	
IDB P A	153000		+2	Hilon 5	2115	29	+0.5	Ethan op	501	1859	+5.0	Sano 1	979	100	-1.1	
Discount B	17812	186	n.c.	Ya'ane	530	b.o.i.	+7.0	Argaman 1	998	6	+4.7	Sano 5	760		-1.3	
Discount A	30510	91	n.c.	Ya'ane op	383	b.o.i.	+7.0	Argaman 5			no trading	Kedem	883	285	+10.0	
Dis. B. cen	3660	202	n.c.	Clal Comp.	901	30	+10	Argan 1			no trading	Kedem op	578	45	+0.7	
Mizrahi 1	9845	738	n.c.	Clal Comp. 5	416	20	+0.9	Argan 5			no trading	Molret	1761	28	+1.3	
Mizrahi 5	9800	14	-1.1	M.L.L. 1	2450	11	n.c.	Argan op			no trading	Perk Mills	35900	1	+4.4	
Mizrahi 9	4490	276	n.c.	M.L.L. 5	1000	20	+4.6	Argan op 5			no trading	Scandia 1	550	15	+2.4	
				M.L.L. op	762	13	n.c.	Argan op 10			no trading	Rim 0.1	1300	40	180	-5.0
				M.L.L. op 5	399	68	n.c.	Argan op 15			no trading	Rim 0.4 r	912	18	n.c.	
				Mikav 1	625	52	+10.1	Argan op 20			no trading	Tal B	2300	38	n.c.	
				Mikav 5	427	15	+4.1	Argan op 25			no trading					
				Mikav op	278	60	+13.0	Argan op 30			no trading					
				Nikav 1	427	15	+4.1	Argan op 35			no trading					
				Nikav 5	427	15	+4.1	Argan op 40			no trading					
				Nikav op	278	60	+13.0	Argan op 45			no trading					
				Team 1	1229	55	+6.1	Argan op 50			no trading					
				Team op	1005	36	+4.1	Argan op 55			no trading					
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Editor and  
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THE JERUSALEM  
POST

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## Renewed friendship

THE STATE VISIT by Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Paris, which starts today, may not signal a revival of the golden era of French-Israeli amity during the late 50s and early 60s. But it should serve as an occasion to reaffirm the renewed understanding between the two democratic states that followed François Mitterrand's election to the presidency in 1981, and especially his visit to this country the year after.

The prospects of a meeting of minds between Mr. Peres and Mr. Mitterrand cannot be aided by the fact that they are not only leaders of their countries' socialist parties, but good personal friends from way back. The acerbity that marred some of the encounters between the French president and Israel's then premier, Menachem Begin, should now be absent.

To be sure, understanding does not necessarily imply full agreement.

In his address to the Knesset, Mr. Mitterrand voiced support for the right of the Palestinians to a state of their own, and he has so far given no indication of retracting this common European view. If the issue comes up, Mr. Peres will have to beg to differ. But common ground will readily be established if Mr. Mitterrand reiterates his opposition to the PLO's acceptance as a partner to negotiations so long as it fails to acknowledge Israel's right to statehood.

France under socialist rule, only in part because of difficulties at home, is showing eagerness to assume an active role in world affairs that would be commensurate with its real capabilities.

Some mistakes have lately been committed. Mr. Mitterrand has had his fingers badly burned in Chad by the wayward Muammar Gaddafi, whom he had misguidedly expected to force into civility. But this does not seem to have lessened the president's readiness to lend a helping hand in settling disputes among nations, without presuming to actually lay down the law to the disputants. Mr. Mitterrand's dissent from the European Community's dictatorial insistence on a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, to the exclusion of such efforts as Camp David, exemplifies his own approach.

Last week Mr. Mitterrand paid a visit to Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus. It is reasonable to assume that Lebanon, where France had a peacekeeping force not long ago, was high on their agenda. Mr. Peres will doubtless be anxious to discover in his Paris talks what chances there might be to achieve a *modus vivendi* with Syria through the tacit restoration of Red Lines in Lebanon.

The leader of the European nation that ruled both Syria and Lebanon between the two world wars, and which still maintains powerful contacts with both, would seem an ideal choice as an intermediary for that purpose.

Plans for increased French-Israeli cooperation in the economic and cultural fields will be taken up, though mainly with Peres's actual host, Premier Laurent Fabius. But Mr. Peres might also wish to find out about some aspects of France's cooperation in these fields with the Arab world — notably about the plan for French aid in rebuilding Baghdad's nuclear reactor.

Mr. Peres's reservations about an air strike against Osirak, it may be recalled, were fuelled by the assumption that, if Mr. Mitterrand were to be voted into the Elysée, he might act to take out the military sting of the reactor, thus obviating the need to resort to armed force.

## Riding a recession

THE STAGGERING amount of IS130 billion — or, in more comprehensible terms, some \$200 million — is reported to have been injected into the economy last month by the Treasury. Compared with October, when the injection totalled only IS33 billion — and even more so by comparison with September, when the Treasury absorbed IS43 billion from the public — the latest figures appear ominous.

But the figures are by no means surprising. Nor should it be a cause for surprise if cash injections increase in the months ahead. When the economy goes into a recession, nothing else can be expected.

To induce a recession is indeed one of the main purposes of the budget cuts that are generally held to be a prerequisite for overcoming the present economic crisis. Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i said so plainly over the weekend, when he posed a choice between a controllable and moderate recession with budget cuts — and an uncontrollable recession if the budget were left uncut.

Yet the November figures on the government's cash injection may indicate that, even without the benefit of the budget cuts already decided upon, but so far hardly implemented, the economy is heading towards a real recession. The slowdown in construction, the creeping rise in unemployment, the closure of industrial enterprises, and the slack in retail sales are evidently not passing contractionary spasms but symptoms of a genuine recessionary trend.

A rising government deficit calls for bigger cash injections into the economy. The increased injection invites a response through cuts in public spending, to offset the loss of revenue. But the cure may turn out to be worse than the disease.

It is one thing to reduce expenditures so as to narrow, as directly and quickly as possible, the yawning gap in our foreign payments. But to push the economy into a much deeper recession than the one that is already underway is a different thing altogether: instead of relieving our current difficulties, it may compound them.

Luckily perhaps, little of the planned budget cuts will take effect in the next few months. This will give the government time to reconsider its policy in the light of current developments. But the government might also usefully ponder the experience of 1966/67, when an economy already headed for a slowdown was needlessly driven headlong into a deep and costly recession.

## POSTSCRIPTS

**PS** WANT to get out of an unwanted appointment? Or perhaps find an excuse to be unavailable? Easy. Just call Rent-a-Liar.

Eric Capelli, a 21-year old computer specialist, has made an official application to the French government for public aid to expand his new Rent-a-Liar business throughout France and abroad.

For an average fee of 60 Francs

\$6.30). Capelli's company will place a telephone call for you and offer invented excuses for cancelling an appointment or justifying your absence.

The enterprising young man claims that the Rent-a-Liar, which already serves several major companies in the Lyon area, is booming and justifies the financing he has requested from the government agency that helps new enterprises get started or expand.

**PS** PAKISTANI women are worth half a man when signing business contracts, under a new law of evidence, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reports.

The new law says that a valid contract must be signed by two men or one man and two women.

The decree, a martial-law ordinance issued by Pakistan's military government, is part of attempts by President Zia-ul-Haq to introduce fundamental Islamic law.

# Peres in Paris

By ASHER WALLFISH

FRENCH PRESIDENT François Mitterrand is a man with a long memory. He does not forget old friends. The friendship which Mitterrand struck up with Shimon Peres, and which forms an underlying thread in the prime minister's state visit to France starting today, was first shaped in the Socialist International decades ago.

They tell a story to describe Mitterrand's loyalty: Throughout his slowly advancing political career, he maintained the tradition of an annual reunion with his university friends. This tradition continued while he was Socialist Party leader and leader of the parliamentary opposition. But after he was elected president, his old friends assumed he would be too busy and too remote in the Elysée Palace for the customary annual get-together.

A couple of days before the regular reunion date, Mitterrand called in one of his aides to ask whether the reunion had been arranged. When he found it had not — on the assumption that presidents do not do such things — Mitterrand tore into the aide and the old boys' reunion was hurriedly arranged.

Peres is, in fact, visiting Paris as guest of his counterpart, Premier Laurent Fabius. For the purposes of protocol, presidents — French and others — cannot officially invite premiers, Israeli and others. But despite that, the two socialist veterans are on first-name terms, and their meeting will be much in the way of an old-boys' reunion.

Mitterrand remembers Peres with something close to affection from his many years in the French political wilderness. While the French socialist leader was trying to shake off his reputation as a loser, Peres was among those who gave him unflinching encouragement each time they met at the Socialist International.

When Mitterrand had turned into a winner, with an impressive personal triumph over Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, leading later to an absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies, it was Peres who emerged the loser. And it was Mitterrand then who had to stiffen Peres's resolve.

French Socialist Party leaders all kept their fingers crossed for Peres in this year's elections. They knew how much their president wanted his ally and counsellor to win. They did not

care to pay heed to the final opinion polls which cast doubt on a Labour landslide.

Paris viewed the emergence of the national unity government, with Peres at its head, as the best of a bad job. Then Mitterrand took a speedy decision — to have his premier send Peres an invitation to a most flattering and sumptuous state visit. He wants to congratulate Peres, give him some much-needed encouragement to face his awesome challenges, and do whatever can be done, through the grand gestures of the visit, to help restore to his old friend the image of a winner.

One sign that the stops are all being pulled out for Peres, is that he is being housed in the Hotel Marigny, right by President Mitterrand's own Elysée Palace. This is a state guest house, not a public hotel. Heads of state are often accommodated there.

To make the hospitality more appropriate, French officials "promote" Peres to higher rank in their conversations with Israeli officials. They frequently call Peres "president du conseil" instead of "premier ministre." Before France amended its constitution under the late Charles de Gaulle, its prime ministers were also called "president du conseil" because they served under figurehead presidents and it was they who wielded the real power.

Mitterrand believes that beyond the theatricality, which not everybody necessarily sees through or sneers at, he may do some good for Peres's image both in Israel and abroad.

OF COURSE the Mitterrand-Peres old-boys' reunion is not simply a matter of throwing a party for old times' sake: the French president also wants some serious heart-to-heart talks with the Israeli premier to see what problems French socialism and Israeli socialism have in common, and why they are both under a cloud. But that is only one of many points for discussion during the Peres visit.

The results of the Peres visit may not be as dramatic as the hospitality that is being planned for him. But it is assumed that there will, nevertheless, be tangible results in terms of everyday relations — in the economic, cultural and technological spheres. Tourism will be encour-

aged, and so will academic and scientific ties. Moreover, some industrial understandings may be reached which may not be announced immediately.

Israel's ambassador to Paris has already said that he seeks to foster multifaceted ties between the two countries in such everyday spheres, which could be stronger and more long-lasting than the one-dimensional military ties that existed between the Sinai Campaign of 1956 and the Six Day War. Nothing remained after the military ties were broken.

IN THE RAREFIED political world inhabited by presidents, prime ministers and party chiefs, there is still room for the principle of "you-scratch-my-back-and-I'll-scratch-yours." The personal fortunes of Peres and the political fortunes of the Israeli Labour Party can only benefit from the Paris visit; likewise, the personal fortunes of Mitterrand and the political fortunes of the Parti Socialiste Français.

With the public opinion polls sounding gloomy predictions for the French parliamentary elections in 1986 and the presidential election in 1988, the Socialists need all the support they can get. And it is at such times that the myth of the Jewish vote is taken off its dusty shelf and polished up until it glitters attractively.

In France, it is commonly believed that 90 per cent of the Jewish voters supported Mitterrand in his successful quest for the presidency in 1981 because the French Jew is pictured as an ideological creature who tends naturally to the left-wing in French politics.

Exaggeration aside, there is some truth in this observation, but not as much today as there was in 1981, when Mitterrand was elected.

His predecessor, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, has been quoted as saying that he lost the election in 1981 because the Jews voted for Mitterrand. What Giscard did not say was that the Jews voted against him, as did also a huge bloc of non-Jewish floating voters, because they had become disgusted with his rule.

Jews and non-Jews swung over to Mitterrand as the alternative, but in the three-and-a-half years which have elapsed they have begun to swing away from him.

## Dry Bones



Politically myopic though Giscard may be, he has managed to persuade himself, as well as all the other leading politicians in France, that the Jewish community is well worth wooing.

If American aspirants to the White House are traditionally said to feel bound to make their pilgrimages to the three I's — Italy, Ireland and Israel — French aspirants to the Elysée Palace have but one I: Israel. Of the four aspirants for the 1988 election, Raymond Barre and Jacques Chaban-Delmas and Jacques Chirac are due to visit soon. All are anxious to establish their credentials.

Beyond these political calculations, Frenchmen in general are looking at Israel with different and more friendly eyes these days. Public opinion, the press and the political world have not, by any means, stopped criticizing Israeli policies, but their tone is far more sympathetic than it has been for some years.

THERE ARE MANY reasons for French affinity to Israel, but certainly one of the deep-rooted psychological reasons is a feeling of unease with respect to the former Moslem colonies in North Africa.

The ordinary Frenchman who hears about Israel's yearning for

security in the Arab world feels himself threatened by part of that world, albeit not in the same physical way. The ordinary Frenchman often feels swamped because of his country's open-door policy vis a vis its former colonies. Millions of Moroccans, Algerians and Tunisians come to France to work. By the year 2000, the combined population of those three countries will reach 150 million; the pressure to cross the Mediterranean and earn money in France is continually increasing.

As a result, xenophobic feelings are growing against the North Africans in France (and the Turkish migrant workers, too). They are popularly considered to be taking away Frenchmen's jobs, boosting the crime rate, and monopolizing social welfare budgets. They are unassimilated and unassimilable for the most part, unlike the Jewish migrants who arrived two decades ago and have integrated well, economically and politically.

The ordinary Frenchman, bewildered and confused by his situation, feels vaguely that the ordinary Israeli is his brother in jeopardy. This will not be the most important factor in the Peres visit. But it will not be a negligible one.

The writer, a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff, is to be covering Prime Minister Peres's visit to France.

## The safety of fluoridation

By H.D. SGAN-COHEN

FLUORIDATION, the most effective and economical method of strengthening the tooth against decay, is one of the most important achievements in the history of public health protection. It ranks along with vaccination, pasteurization, and chlorination.

Once a community has decided to fluoridate optimally its water supply, it can expect that dental caries (decay) will be reduced in children by 50 to 75 per cent. These children will retain the acquired protection in their permanent teeth throughout their lives. Recent research has suggested that adults also benefit from ingesting optimally fluoridated water. Fluoridation is an extremely economical public health measure. It has been calculated, at a conservative estimate, that for every dollar spent on water fluoridation, \$35 are saved on dental treatment.

An overwhelming abundance of research, conducted in Australia,

Austria, Canada, New Zealand, Britain, the U.S. and other countries, has firmly demonstrated the safety of fluoride. Reputable international health organizations that advocate the safety of fluoridation include the World Health Organization, the National Institute of Health and the National Cancer Institute in the U.S. and the Royal College of Physicians of London.

The scientific community establishes an association between different health factors only after painstaking research according to accepted methodology. The relationship between smoking and cancer, for example, has been emphati-

cally confirmed by all the major national and academic health institutions of the world after such rigorous testing. The same process has been followed in the case of fluoridation, and no association with health risks has been identified.

An allegation that artificial water fluoridation may be associated with an increased risk of cancer was derived from one single source. The data were not ignored by the scientific community. As is standard procedure, in matters of such significance, these results were reexamined and reanalysed by scientists throughout the world and conclusions were published in more than ten scientific articles, which unanimously refuted the original conclusions. Internationally accepted epidemiological methods, applied to the data, clearly demonstrated that no association exists between fluoride and cancer.

The authors of the original article, nevertheless, have refused to accept the expansive evidence that their

conclusions were misconceived. On the contrary, they have gone ahead and generated an international anti-fluoridation lobby which, as reflected in a *Jerusalem Post* article of November 26 ("The fluoridation issue" by D'vora Ben Shaul), seems unfortunately to have reached Israel.

DENTAL CARIES (decay) prevalence has been increasing in developing countries, including Israel, over the past decades. Concurrently, developed Western countries have been characterized by a dramatic reduction and almost disappearance of the disease, which has been attributed, by and large, to the beneficial effects of fluoride. The cheapest and the most effective system of fluoride supplementation is via the water supplies. It should be noted that fluoride is, in fact, a naturally occurring element found in all water sources, but not necessarily at the optimal level for caries prevention. Israelis residing in the northern

sector of the country, where natural fluoride levels in the water are low, suffer from approximately three times more decayed teeth than those who are fortunate enough to reside in certain southern areas of the country, where naturally occurring fluoride levels are higher.

A vast body of evidence has demonstrated the safety of fluoride and its beneficial effect. No better conclusion could be found than a quote from Dr. J. Clemmensen, director of the Cancer Registry for Denmark, and member of the World Health Organization Advisory Group on Cancer, in a review of the literature he published in the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 1983: "This misleading and refuted suggestion of an association between artificial fluoridation and cancer, has been responsible for a considerable waste of effort and resources that are sorely needed for research and prevention in other fields. It has also served to misrepresent to the press, the public and the politicians in many countries the facts about a very effective and simple way to prevent dental caries in populations."

The writer is a member of the Department of Community Dentistry and Oral Hygiene in the School of Dental Medicine at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Centre.

## READERS' LETTERS

### HOW TO SEARCH

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — In reference to the search for Hadass Kedmi of Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk, may I recommend a procedure employed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which I saw in action when I was their guest in September 1981.

Nine-year-old Jennifer Cardy, a Ballinderry schoolgirl, had been found strangled and drowned and her bicycle located in nearby bushes. A look alike of Jennifer had been located and was photographed riding a bike like Jennifer's and dressed as Jennifer had been on the day she was killed. The filming took place at exactly the hour Jennifer was known to have left her house.

One film clip was shot from behind the girl, and one frontally, as if viewed by passersby going in the opposite direction. The clips, shown on TV for three days between programmes and as well as at intervals during the morning "trade pattern" ended with a plea to the public to come forward and a telephone number on full screen. A small, superimposed clock was ticking away the actual time of the event.

I was told this procedure, meant to jog memories, brought in much useful information.

Since the owners of the car Hadass was last known to be in have come forward, and we know the exact time and place where she was last seen alive, this technique could be used to

help people who saw her, remember details. The information given to the press (1.63 metres tall, medium build, brown eyes, straight hair, round face, etc.) is *not* image forming.

In October 1981 I sent details of this procedure to the then Minister of the Interior in charge of police matters. I did not even receive the courtesy of a reply, let alone implementation. Given the disconcerted state of police morale at that time I was hardly surprised.

Now, with a new and determined incumbent, I hope that someone is listening. I am sure that Israel Television would cooperate wholeheartedly.

WIM VAN LEER

Jerusalem.

### THE SWOPE BROTHERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — In his article on "The Hoskins Affair" in the Magazine of November 23, Louis Rapoport appears to have confused two brothers. Gerard Swope was an industrialist and the head of General Electric, as well as a generous benefactor of the Technion. Herbert Bayard Swope, during 1942-46, was a consultant to the U.S. Secretary of War.

CARL ALPERT

Haifa.

### POSTAL STORAGE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — I would like you to make this appeal to the Minister of Communications.

Dear Mr. Minister, tell us, please, what do you do with our mail? Where do you store it for three to four weeks, between London and Tel Aviv? Do you have special warehouses to season people's letters, so that news becomes history? Do you do this to assist tourism? Do you feel it will create additional aliya?

There must be good reasons for delaying airmail so much that a man on horseback, riding through Europe, could bring us the mail in

half the time it takes now. May I humbly suggest that you revert to the postal services we had 10 or 20 years ago, close down your mail-storage warehouses and give parents and children a chance to communicate?

DAVID SCHEINER

London/Netanya.

### PENFRIENDS

MIKE MANTEAW (23), c/o Betty Acquah, Barclays Bank, High Street, Box 22, Takoradi, Ghana, would like to correspond with young Israelis in order to learn more about our country.

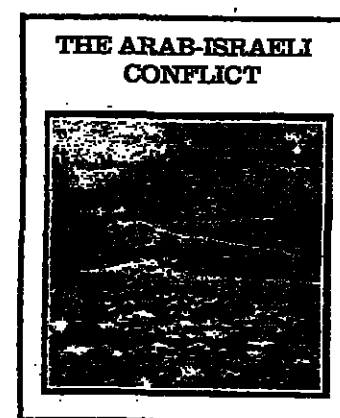
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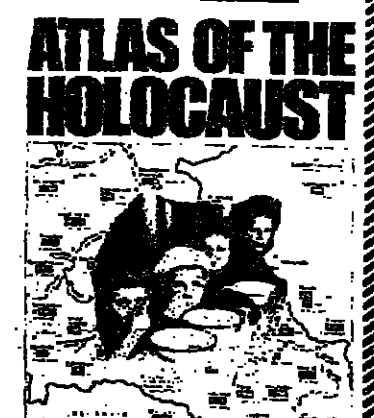
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